

Meeting Minutes of the Board of Governors

9:00 AM, Thursday, March 3, 2022 via Zoom

Attendance: Mr. B. Merkel (Chair), Ms J. Allen, Dr. E. Apatu, Dr. D. Brooks, Dr. L. Bronsard, Ms L. Brown, Mr. R. Clarke, Ms S. Cruickshanks, Dr. J. Daniel, Ms J. Dhaliwal, Dr. D. Farrar, Mr. D. Feather, Mr. M. Ferencich, Ms S. Galloway, Mr. D. Horwood, Mr. D. Huctwith, Ms. R. Jamieson, Ms Sarrah Lal, Dr. N. Lishchyna, Mr. J. Mancinelli, Ms S. McLarty, Mr. K. Nye, Ms M. Pool, Ms J. Rowe, Dr. D. Sloboda, Ms S. Stankovic, Ms C. Stefankiewicz, Dr. E. Szathmáry, Dr. S. Tighe, Dr. R. Walker, Ms A. Thyret-Kidd (*University Secretary*), Ms Christine Richard (*Associate University Secretary*) Ms K. Snow (*Governance Coordinator*)

Observers: Ms B. Couchman, Ms E. Davies, Mr. D. Della-Vedova, Ms A. Farquhar, Ms S. Fazilat, Ms D. Henne, Dr. N. Kevlahan, Ms B.A. Levy, Ms D. Martin, Dr. K. Mossman, Dr. P. O’Byrne, Ms A. Purina, Ms M. Williams

Invited: Ms Carol Podedworny, *Director and Chief Curator, McMaster Museum of Art*
Dr. Kate Whalen, *Associate Director, Academic Sustainability Programs*
Dr. S. Denburg, *Executive Vice-Dean and Associate Vice-President, Academic*
Dr. K. Hassanein, *Dean, Faculty of Business*
Dr. J. Hurley, *Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences*
Dr. M. MacDonald, *Dean, Faculty of Science*
Dr. H. Sheardown, *(Acting) Dean, Faculty of Engineering*
Dr. P. Swett, *Dean, Faculty of Humanities*
Dr. R. Selvaganapathy, *Distinguished Engineering Professor, Canada Research Chair in Biomicrofluids*
Dr. Fiona Smaill, *Co-director, Special Immunology Services/HIV Clinic*
Mr. D. DeMan, *Senior Manager, Environmental and Occupational Health Support Services, Human Resources*
Mr. B. Davis, *University Counsel*
Mr. T. Shattuck, *CEO, McMaster Innovation Park*
Mr. R. Couldrey, *Strategic Advisor to the President and Vice-Presidents*
Mr. D. Dermott, *TD Securities*
Mr. D. Kunde, *IA Capital Markets*
Ms S. Tam, *IA Capital Markets*
Mr. T. Lieu, *IA Capital Markets*
Mr. T. Betts, *Gowling WLG*
Mr. S. Babic, *Gowling WLG*
Mr. G. Rawlinson, *Torys LLP*

Regrets: Ms M.L. Maher, Ms F. Samji

A. OPEN SESSION

1. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. Brad Merkel welcomed members to the March meeting of the Board of Governors. He provided a high-level overview of key items that would be received, discussed, and approved at the meeting. Mr. Merkel informed the Board that a Member's Only Discussion would begin at 11:00 a.m.

2. NOTICE OF MEETING - FEBRUARY 18, 2022

The Notice of Meeting was circulated on February 18, 2022.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA - OPEN SESSION

There were no requests to have items moved from the Consent to the Regular agenda of the Open Session.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Board of Governors approve the Open Session agenda for the meeting of March 3, 2022, and that items 4-6 be approved or received for information by Consent.

The motion was *Carried*.

CONSENT

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – DECEMBER 9, 2021 (OPEN SESSION)

a. Minutes of the Board of Governors - Open - December 9, 2021

Motion:

that the Board of Governors approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on December 9, 2022, as circulated.

Approved by Consent.

5. REPORT FROM SENATE

a. Proposal for McMaster Institute for Research on Aging|Dixon Hall Centre (MIRA|DH)

Approval

b. Revised Terms of Reference – Hannah Chair

Approval

c. SPS B13 Revisions

Approval

SPS B13 Revisions - Track Changes

Motion:

that the Board of Governors approve the recommendations as contained in the report from Senate.

Approved by Consent.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. EXECUTIVE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

i. Amendments to the Sexual Violence Policy Information

Sexual Violence Policy Revisions - Summary
Sexual Violence Policy Revisions - Track Changes- February 1, 2022

b. REMUNERATIONS COMMITTEE

i. Ratification of Tentative Agreement - Unifor Local 5555, Unit 5 Approval

Motion:

that the Board of Governors approve the tentative agreement between McMaster University and UNIFOR Local 5555, Unit 5 (Operations and Maintenance Employees) for a 4-year term effective October 1, 2021 and expiring November 30, 2025, with terms outlined in the circulated report.

Approved by Consent.

REGULAR

7. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications for the meeting of March 3, 2022.

9. PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

Dr. David Farrar, *President and Vice-Chancellor*, presented his Report to the Board. The report was focused on the University's return-to-campus and overall management of the pandemic. It was noted that the health and well-being of community members continued to

be prioritized, and the institution is mindful of accessibility issues and requested accommodations.

Members heard that the University has been working closely with peer institutions and COU regarding the continuation of mandatory vaccination policies. Although direct requirements have been revoked, the Ministry has been clear that postsecondary institutions have the discretion to maintain their own vaccination policies as part of overall health and safety requirements. Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Kieran Moore, supports this approach. McMaster, along with other Ontario institutions, will accordingly retain the mandatory vaccine requirement until at least the end of the current term, together with the MacCheck screening tool, and other measures to support the ongoing well-being of our community. Other safety measures include the continual provision of rapid tests to critical services on campus, free surgical masks to the entire community, as well as transparent masks to instructors and teaching assistants in need of an accessible option.

The President also highlighted the Brighter World fundraising campaign. Members heard that this comprised of four key elements: Canada's Global Nexus for Pandemics and Biological Threats, Climate Change and Sustainability; Democracy and the Civic University; and students and innovation in the learning environment. Dr. Farrar also informed the Board of the recent gift of more than \$32M from Marnix Heersink, an Alabama physician and entrepreneur. This gift will boost McMaster's role as a hub for biomedical innovation, entrepreneurship, and global health, and will enable the creation of the Marnix E. Heersink School of Biomedical Innovation and Entrepreneurship to educate the next generation of entrepreneurial health innovators.

In response to question regarding the situation unfolding in Ukraine, Dr. Farrar acknowledged the various impacts, both economic and societal, on community members with direct or indirect ties to Ukraine and surrounding countries.

10. REPORTS RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION

a. McMaster Museum of Art - Annual Report

Dr. Farrar introduced Ms Carol Podedworny, *Director and Chief Curator, McMaster Museum of Art*, who presented the McMaster Museum of Art Annual Report. Members heard that the Museum has two key priorities; to support the academic mission of the University, and to contribute to arts culture in Canada. Ms Podedworney expanded on these priorities during her presentation.

In response to a question, Ms Podedworny explained that there are virtual tours and exhibits available through the website.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. PLANNING AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

i. Sustainability Strategy

Ms Jane Allen, *Chair of the Planning and Resources Committee*, advised the Board that on February 17, 2022, the Committee received a presentation on the new Sustainability Strategy, noting that this was the University's inaugural institution-wide Sustainability Strategy. Ms. Debbie Martin, *Assistant Vice-President and Chief Facilities Officer* provided a high-level overview of the strategy. Dr. Kate Whalen, *Associate Director, Academic Sustainability Programs*, was then invited to speak to the practical implementation of the strategy and how it impacts the student body.

In response to a question of how the results would be measured, Dr. Whalen explained to the Board that they are in the process of hiring an Executive Director for Sustainability, whose role would be to set measurable goals and report on the progress each year. Dr. Farrar and Ms Fazilat answered questions from members on how the sustainability goals might tie into the University's strategic plan and performance measures for senior leadership.

Following questions, Dr. Whalen withdrew from the meeting.

ii. **Salaried Pension Plans Actuarial Evaluations**

Ms Allen explained to members that the University is required to submit an actuarial valuation for the Salaried Pension Plans as at July 1, 2021 as per the Ontario Pension Benefits Act and the Income Tax Act. Ms Dee Henne, *Assistant Vice-President (Administration) and Chief Financial Officer* presented the circulated documents.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Board of Governors approve the results of the Actuarial Valuation for Funding Purposes as at July 1, 2021 for the Contributory Pension Plan for Salaried Employees of McMaster University Including McMaster Divinity College (Plan 2000) and the Actuarial Valuation for Funding Purposes as at July 1, 2021 for the Contributory Pension Plan for Salaried Employees of McMaster University Including McMaster Divinity College (Original Plan) and be filed with the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario and the Canada Revenue Agency.

The motion was *Carried*.

b. **AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE**

i. **Health and Safety Annual Report 2021**

Mr. Nye, *Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee*, informed the Board that the 2021 Health and Safety Annual report was received at the February 19, 2022 Audit and Risk Committee meeting. Board members would have seen Lisa

Morine, *Director of Health, Safety and Risk Management* at meetings for many years and this report was written before her retirement from McMaster after 36 years of service.

Mr. Dane DeMan, *Senior Manager, Environmental and Occupational Health Support Services Human Resources* presented the Report. Members heard that a significant focus of the report was on the University's continuing response to the COVID-19 pandemic with respect to the vaccination policy and return-to-campus efforts.

12. PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Dr. Farrar introduced Dr. Karen Mossman, *Vice-President, Research, Office of the Vice-President, Research*, Dr. Fiona Smaill, *Co-director, Special Immunology Services/HIV Clinic* and Dr. P. Ravi Selvaganapathy, *Distinguished Engineering Professor, Canada Research Chair in Biomicrofluids* to present **McMaster Research through COVID** to the Board. Members received an overview of the essential and interdisciplinary work that was completed by researchers in response to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. O'Byrne spoke to the ability of the University to collaborate across disciplines, noting the number of ways in which research may evolve beyond the original scope and intent of the research. In response to a question, Dr. Mossman noted that McMaster was particularly impactful due to its flexibility across Faculties and disciplines.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

As there was no other business, the open session of the meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.