In the space below, please provide a 300-word statement that will be helpful to the electorate in their selection. This page will be posted to the University Secretariat website exactly as submitted by the nominee; do not submit personal information on this page (i.e., address, telephone number, e-mail address, photograph, etc.). Please limit your statement to this page only.

Name of Nominee: Neil Barr

My interest in the University Planning Committee stems from several factors. Having spent the great majority of my life in Hamilton, I am very proud that McMaster has been recognized as a national and international leader. Being named the most research-intensive University in Canada four years in a row and ranked number one in Canada for Good Health and Well-Being and Partnership for the Goals (fourteenth in the world) are testaments to this assertion. It is not a coincidence, then, that I have been an employee at McMaster in various roles, and completed two graduate degrees at the University, over the past 20 years.

McMaster’s current mission includes a commitment to creativity and innovation while placing value on teamwork, locally and globally. I am keen to be involved in continuing to support these areas of focus. Currently, I am actively engaged in four interdisciplinary graduate programs (eHealth, Global Health, Health Management, Business Administration) where I have helped to develop new courses and experiences, while teaching in various formats (in person, online, blended) over the past five years. Additionally, as a coordinator for the interfaculty eHealth MSc program and an instructor in the interfaculty Master of Health Management program, I have experienced first-hand the benefits of breaking down traditional academic silos to provide students with a rich ecosystem in which they can thrive academically, professionally, and personally.

Moving forward, I would like to be involved in strengthening existing partnerships with organizations whose efforts are geared toward McMaster’s vision of impact through inclusion and community, such as CityLAB Hamilton and Mitacs. Additionally, the development of new collaborations and programs that build community and promote diversity at the international level (e.g., the Global Health program’s symposium in India, partnerships of transcontinental teams focused on resource-poor countries) would enhance the University’s global reputation.

Word count: 299/300