

McMaster University

SENATE MINUTES

VOL. LXXVI

Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 3:30 p.m.
In the Council Room (111), Gilmour Hall

PRESENT: Dr. David Farrar (Chair), Dr. Aaron Schat, Dr. Alison Holloway, Dr. Ameil Joseph, Dr. Anne Niec, Dr. Bhagwati Gupta, Dr. Christina Baade, Dr. Dina Brooks, Dr. Doug Welch, Dr. Hans Boden, Dr. Ishwar Puri, Dr. Jeremiah Hurley, Dr. Judy Fudge, Dr. Juliet Daniel, Dr. Karen Mossman, Dr. Kathryn Mattison, Dr. Kim Dej, Dr. Kim Jones, Dr. Laura Parker, Dr. Len Waverman, Dr. Lorraine Carter, Dr. Martin Horn, Dr. Maureen MacDonald, Dr. Megan Brickley, Dr. Nancy Doubleday, Dr. Nicola Nicolici, Dr. Pamela Baxter, Dr. Pamela Swett, Dr. Patrick Bennett, Dr. Peter Miu, Dr. Phil Zylla, Dr. Robert O'Brien, Dr. Sherman Cheung, Dr. Susan Searls Giroux, Ms Manisha Pahwa, Mr. Jim McCaughey, Mr. Ryan Witcher, Ms Cassidy Bereskin, Ms Geil Astorga, Ms Leah Allen, Ms Beth Manganeli Staite, Ms Mary Williams, Ms Moira Taylor, Mr Muneeb Ahmed, Mr. Sahand Sepehrvand, Ms Shirleen Datt, Ms Andrea Thyret-Kidd (University Secretary), Ms Michelle Zheng (Associate University Secretary), Ms Alysha Suckert (Governance Coordinator)

OBSERVERS: Dr. Sandra Carroll, Ms Esme Davies, Ms Andrea Farquhar, Dr. Alison Sills, Ms Melissa Pool, Mr. Sean Van Koughnett, Dr. Jean Wilson, Ms Rachel Murgel, Ms Carolyn Brendon

REGRETS RECEIVED: Dr. Chandrima Chakraborty, Dr. Janie Astephen-Wilson, Dr. Paul O'Byrne, Dr. Thomas Adams, Mr. Roger Couldrey, Ms Anita Acai

A. OPEN SESSION

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Farrar welcomed members to the meeting and introduced the new members of Senate, Ms Manisha Pahwa and Ms Shirleen Datt.

Dr. Farrar provided members with an update on SMA 3. Negotiations are being led by the Provost's office, in close collaboration with the Deans, and supported by the President's Office, IRA and Public Affairs. The first meeting occurred on October 31, 2019 with Marny Scully who is leading the negotiations for the Ministry. Dr. Farrar explained that they were able to get some clarity on the metrics being used and that in most cases the metrics are set by the province and there is no opportunity to influence the areas of focus or data to be used. The performance metrics focus on two key areas: Skills and Job Outcomes and Community and Economic Impact. Dr. Farrar noted that there is one institution specific metric relating to economic impact where we are able to determine the data used. Following discussions between the VPR, Provost's Office, MILO

and others, we are looking at invention disclosures as the basis for this metric. It was also discussed with the Ministry, the possibility of using co-op placement numbers, or perhaps a blend of 2-3 economic impact measures. IRA is reviewing historic data for these areas to calculate the most beneficial and stable figure to uses. The most difficult aspect is the requirement to define a limited number of areas of program strengths, linked to areas of growth. The Ministry is insisting that we take a more focused approach than SMA2 and only include 30-35% of our enrolment in the “strength/growth” metric. An initial draft document is to be submitted to the Ministry by December 17, 2019.

Dr. Farrar informed members that the province released Ontario’s Fall economic statement last week. The statement maintains the government’s commitment to balance the budget by 2023-24 and anticipates the 2019-20 budget deficit to be \$9 billion, which is less than projected last year. The province is committed to streamlining and modernizing degree consent and program funding approval processes so we’re waiting to see how this works in practice. There were also a number of investments intended to end hallway health care, which is a major pre-occupation of this government, as well as the development of regional transportation plans and the establishment of a cyber security centre of excellence.

Dr. Farrar informed members that work has been underway over the last few months to review the University’s Sexual Violence and Discrimination and Harassment policies. The University engages in cyclical policy reviews and both the Sexual Violence Policy and the Policy on Discrimination and Harassment are undergoing review this year. At the point our internal review process was beginning, the provincial government announced a requirement for all universities and colleges to review their Sexual Violence policies this year. We have been able to build the provincial requirements for review of that policy into our ongoing review. There is a working group, led by Dr. Arig al Shaibah, AVP, Equity and Inclusion, leading the policy review work, with the support of the University Secretariat, but it has been a consultative and collaborative process. During October an online survey was made available and advertised on the Daily News and we appreciate the feedback from those Senators and others who took the time to complete this. The goal is to bring both policies forward to Senate for review at the next meeting in December. The overall goal has been to streamline and simplify the policies and make some updates to reflect new positions and address some of the procedural questions and concerns that have arisen now that we have seen these policies in operation for a couple of years.

Dr. Farrar reminded Senators that following the meeting the annual Senate reception will take place in the MDCL Atrium.

1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA – OPEN SESSION

Dr. Farrar confirmed that no requests had been received to move any items from the Consent to the Regular agenda of the Open Session.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the Open Session agenda for the meeting of November 13, 2019 and that item 2 be approved by Consent.

The motion was **carried**.

CONSENT

2 MINUTES of the Meeting of October 9, 2019 – Open Session

Motion:

That the minutes of the Open Session portion of the meeting held on October 9, 2019 be approved as circulated.

Approved by Consent.

REGULAR

3 BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

4 ENQUIRIES

There were no enquiries.

5 COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

6 PRESENTATION TO SENATE BY CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Mr. Brad Merkel, Chair of the Board of Governors, provided a presentation to Senate.

Dr. Farrar welcomed Mr. Merkel and mentioned that Mr. Merkel was vice-chair of the Board of Governors before becoming the chair and has been a part of the processes this past summer to examine how effective the Board has been.

Mr. Merkel explained that the Board went through an evaluation process and was trying to better understand governance and the areas of responsibilities between Board and Senate. The process started by looking at the overall framework for McMaster's governance and the University Act. It was observed that Board and Senate have a joint Committee, the University Planning Committee, for which Board members have rarely attended. Mr. Merkel noted that it was helpful for Board Members to understand the role and authorities of Senate.

The Board of Governors is composed of 3 ex officio members, 11 board elected members, 1 divinity college member, 5 Alumni, 3 senators, 4 teaching staff, 2 students, 2

non-teaching staff and 6 LGIC members. The Board of Governors is mainly composed of members external to the University.

Mr. Merkel explained the Committees of the Board and their roles. The Audit and Risk Committee looks at the financial controls for the financial statements and manages compliance. The Planning and Resources Committee examines financial programs and capital projects for approval. The Pension Trust Committee is a sub committee under Planning and Resources that manages the investment pool. The Human Resources Committee exists to monitor performance of the President and management team and Remunerations covers the whole university. The Nominating Committee is an internal committee that looks the appointment of members to committees and new board members. Lastly, the Advancement Committee provides advice on fundraising externally and government relations.

A question was asked regarding the length of terms for board members. Mr. Merkel explained that most board member terms are 4 years and can be extending for another 4 years.

In September of this year, a survey was completed by the board members. The previous survey was completed over 5 years ago. The survey was extensive and both qualitative and quantitative. The results of the survey indicated a need to improve effectiveness. Mr. Merkel identified four broad areas to improve effectiveness:

1. Overall board effectiveness – strategy, risk management, governance
2. Committee effectiveness – planning, engagement
3. Administrative processes – executive summaries, digital enablement (looking into more digital options)
4. Experience & capabilities – skills, diversity, training (School of Business provides training on governance)

Mr. Merkel noted that the Board came up with 31 recommendations proposed for consideration which will be prioritized.

A question was asked regarding deadlines and if there is a natural flow for approvals. Mr. Merkel explained that they are going through the process now and putting a calendar together for the events coming up every year such as the approval of the financial statements.

7 REPORT FROM GRADUATE COUNCIL

Dr. Doug Welch, Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, presented the report from Graduate Council.

Dr. Welch explained that the items are for information.

A question was asked regarding the scholarships being available for international students. Dr. Welch clarified that only the one scholarship that specifies that it is for international students.

8 REPORT FROM UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

Dr. Kim Dej, Acting Vice-Provost, Faculty, presented the report from Undergraduate Council.

Dr. Dej explained that at its October 29, 2019 meeting, the Undergraduate Council approved, for recommendation to Senate, a proposal to establish the Associateship in Canadian Surety Bonding Certificate Program.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the establishment of the Associateship in Canadian Surety Bonding Certificate Program, as set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried**.

The remainder of items were for information.

9 REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Alison Holloway, Chair of the Committee on Appointments, presented the report from the Committee on Appointments.

At its meeting on October 28, 2019, the Committee on Appointments approved the Terms of Reference for the Associate Director, Integrated Biomedical Engineering and Health Sciences Program and now recommends it to Senate.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Senate approve the terms of reference for the Associate Director, Integrated Biomedical Engineering and Health Sciences Program.

The motion was **carried**.

10 REPORT FROM THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Dr. Maureen MacDonald, Dean of the Faculty of Science, presented the report.

Dr. MacDonald explained that The Faculty of Science proposes that the name of the School of Geography & Earth Sciences be changed to the “School of Earth, Environment & Society”.

The new name better reflects the core research focus of faculty within the School and is part of a broader alignment with the School's vision and mission statements. This change is also consistent with the importance of environmental science and environmental studies within the BA and BSc undergraduate academic programs offered by the School.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Senate approve the proposed name change of the School of Geography & Earth Sciences to the 'School of Earth, Environment & Society', effective July 1, 2020.

The motion was **carried**.

11 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business for the open session.