

McMaster University

SENATE MINUTES

VOL. LXXV

Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 3:30 p.m.  
In the Council Room (111), Gilmour Hall

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**PRESENT:** Dr. David Farrar (Chair), Dr. Aaron Schat, 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. Janie Astephen-Wilson, Dr. Jeremiah Hurley, Dr. Judy Fudge, Dr. Juliet Daniel, Dr. Katherine Cuff, Dr. Kathryn Mattison, Dr. Kim Dej, Dr. Kim Jones, Dr. Laura Parker, Dr. Martin Horn, Dr. Maureen MacDonald, Dr. Megan Brickley, Dr. Nancy Doubleday, Dr. Nicola Nicolici, Dr. Pamela Baxter, Dr. Patrick Bennett, Dr. Robert O'Brien, Dr. Sherman Cheung, Dr. Susan Searls Giroux, Dr. Thomas Adams, Mr. Ryan Witcher, Mr. Tevin Heath, Ms Cassidy Bereskin, Ms Geil Astorga, Ms Leah Allen, Ms Mary Williams, Ms Moira Taylor, Mr Muneeb Ahmed, Mr. Sahand Sepehrvand, Ms Andrea Thyret-Kidd (University Secretary), Ms Michelle Zheng (Associate University Secretary), Ms Alysha Suckert (Governance Coordinator)

**OBSERVERS:** Ms Sandra Carroll, Ms Esme Davies, Ms Andrea Farquhar, Ms Alison Sills, Ms Melissa Pool, Mr. Sean Van Koughnett

**REGRETS RECEIVED:** Dr. Alison Holloway, Dr. Chandrima Chakraborty, Dr. Karen Mossman, Dr. Len Waverman, Dr. Paul O'Byrne, Dr. Vic Satzewich, Mr. Jim McCaughey, Mr. Roger Couldrey, Ms Anita Acai, Ms Beth Manganelli Staite, Ms Susan Denburg

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**A. OPEN SESSION**

**OPENING REMARKS**

Dr. Farrar welcomed members to the meeting.

Dr. Farrar advised that there is not a lot to report on the SMA3. The performance metrics focus on two key areas: skills and job outcomes, and community and economic impact. The first meeting with the Ministry is at the end of October and Dr. Farrar will report back at the next Senate meeting to keep Senators apprised of developments.

The COU Summit representatives met and discussions focused on the COU becoming more effective as an advocacy body for the sector. The University's government relations team is working closely with the Ministry to try to build direct connections where possible and gain a better understanding of the government's priorities and approach.

Dr. Farrar informed Senators that McMaster has again been ranked among the world's top 100 universities. In the recently published Times Higher Education World University Rankings, the University moved up to 72<sup>nd</sup> in the world, and was once again ranked fourth among Canadian institutions.

Senators have been invited to the Magna Charta Observatory Conference on October 16-17, 2019. This is the first time the MCO conference has been held in North America so it is an honour for McMaster to be invited to host, and speaks well of our global standing and reputation. Senators have been invited to attend the signing ceremony on October 17.

## **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 October 9, 2019 and that item 2 be approved by Consent.**

The motion was **carried**.

## **CONSENT**

### **2 MINUTES of the Meeting of September 11, 2019 – Open Session**

Motion:

**that the minutes of the Open Session portion of the meeting held on September 11, 2019 be approved as circulated.**

**Approved** by Consent.

## **REGULAR**

### **3 BUSINESS ARISING**

There was no business arising from the Open Session.

### **4 ENQUIRIES**

There were no enquiries.

### **5 COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **a. Annual Report of the McMaster Research Ethics Board, 2018-2019**

This item was for information.

## 6 REPORT FROM GRADUATE COUNCIL

Dr. Doug Welch, Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, presented the report from Graduate Council, which included one item for approval.

Dr. Welch explained that the item for approval is the cancellation of the co-op option (M.Sc.) for Health Research Methodology which has not been offered for some time.

A question was asked regarding the rationale for cancelling the coop option. Dr. Welch explained that Research Methodology has a wide range of programs and versions; 34 programs. The programs involve a lot of experiential learning. Regarding the coop option, the experiences gained from it and the specific sorts of resources available are not sufficient to grow the program.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate, on the recommendation of Graduate Council, approve the cancellation of the co-op option (M.Sc.) for Health Research Methodology, as circulated.**

The motion was **carried**.

## 7 REPORT FROM UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

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

Dr. Dej explained that there is one item for approval and six items for information. The item for approval is the addition of a *Late Withdrawal* section within the *General Academic Regulations* of the 2019-2020 *Undergraduate Calendar*. The proposal outlines parameters for a late withdrawal option to assist students who have become irretrievably behind in a course.

A question was asked regarding a 40% project and the situation that will occur as it is not a final exam. Dr. Dej explained that a professor could argue that it is equivalent to a final exam and note it in the course outline. However, if the project is completed, then the student cannot withdraw from the course.

Senators raised concerns regarding the language and how it could be interpreted by students. It was noted that this policy is to be implemented in this calendar year and concerns were raised around term syllabi already completed and circulated to students. Senators discussed having the change instead be effective January 1, 2020 however there were concerns about current students not having the same options for both semesters.

Dr. Dej explained that a discussion with an academic advisor is required for approval of a late withdrawal, and advisors need to consult with professors around final projects.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate, on the recommendation of Undergraduate Council, approve the addition of a *Late Withdrawal* section within the *General Academic Regulations of the 2019-2020 Undergraduate Calendar*, as circulated.**

The motion was **carried** with two individuals opposed.

The remainder of items were for information.

## **8 REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS**

Dr. Katherine Cuff, Member of the Committee on Appointments, presented the report from the Committee on Appointments.

At its meeting on September 16, 2019, the Committee on Appointments approved the following recommendations and now recommends them to Senate:

### **a. Title Change – Continuing Health Sciences Education (CHSE) Program**

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the title change of the head of the Continuing Health Sciences Education (CHSE) Program to Associate Dean, effective July 1, 2019.**

The motion was **carried**.

### **b. ToR SPS A9 Drafting Committee – Updated Membership**

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the amendment to the SPS A9 Drafting Committee as circulated.**

The motion was **carried**.

## **9 REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY CEREMONIALS & INSIGNIA**

Dr. Martin Horn, Chair of the committee on University Ceremonials & Insignia presented the report.

At its meeting on October 4, 2019, the Committee on University Ceremonials and Insignia approved the following recommendations and now recommends them to Senate:

**a. Degree Designation, Abbreviation and Hood**

Degree abbreviation and hood designs for Master of Financial Mathematics.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that the Senate approve that the Master of Financial Mathematics degree assumes the degree abbreviation M.F.M. and that it adopts the hood description currently used by the Master of Science, Master of Science (OT), Master of Science (PT), and Master of Science (SLP):  
Black silk, lined and bound with old gold silk.**

The motion was **carried**.

**b. Academic Regalia, Hood Descriptions and Degree Abbreviations Policy**

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that the Senate approve the revisions to the Policy on Academic Regalia, Hood Descriptions and Degree Abbreviations, as circulated.**

The motion was **carried**.

**c. Academic Regalia Modification**

This item is included for information.

**10 OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business for the open session.