

McMaster University

SENATE MINUTES

VOL. LXXIV

Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.  
In the Council Room (111), Gilmour Hall

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**PRESENT:** Dr. David Farrar, Dr. Aaron Schat, Dr. Alison Holloway, Dr. Ameil Joseph, Dr. Bhagwati Gupta, Dr. Christina Baade, Dr. Dina Brooks, Dr. Doug Welch, Dr. Hans Boden, Dr. Ishwar Puri, Dr. Jeremiah Hurley, Dr. Joseph Sokalski, Dr. Judy Fudge, Dr. Juliet Daniel, Dr. Karen Mossman, Dr. Kathryn Mattison, Dr. Kim Dej, Dr. Kim Jones, Dr. Laura Parker, Dr. Leonard Waverman, Dr. Martin Horn, Dr. Maureen MacDonald, Dr. Megan Brickley, Dr. Nancy Doubleday, Dr. Nicola Nicolici, Dr. Sherman Cheung, Dr. Susan Searls Giroux, Dr. Thomas Adams, Mr. Jim McCaughey, Ms Manisha Pahwa, Mr. Ryan Whitcher, Mr. Tevin Heath, Ms Anita Acai, Ms Leah Allen, Ms Beth Manganelli Staite, Ms Mary Williams, Ms Moira Taylor, Mr. Sahand Sepehrvand, Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, Ms Andrea Thyret-Kidd (University Secretary), Ms Michelle Zheng (Associate University Secretary), Ms Alysha Suckert (Governance Coordinator)

**OBSERVERS:** Ms. Carolyn Brendon, Dr. Sandra Carroll, Ms Esme Davies, Dr. Susan Denburg, Ms Andrea Farquhar, Ms. Vivian Lewis, Dr Alison Sills, Ms Melissa Pool, Mr. Sean Van Koughnett, Dr. Jean Wilson, Ms Rachel Murgel, Dr. Arig al Shaibah

**REGRETS RECEIVED:** Dr. Anne Niec, Dr. Lorraine Carter, Dr. Mark Walton, Dr. Pamela Baxter, Dr. Paul O'Byrne, Mr. Roger Couldrey, Dr. Chandrima Chakraborty

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**A. OPEN SESSION**

**OPENING REMARKS**

Dr. Farrar welcomed members to the meeting.

Dr. Farrar informed members that January 27, 2020 was McMaster Day on the Hill in Ottawa. It was an opportunity to showcase McMaster, our strengths, and where we can help the government move forward. At the end of the day there was a government/alumni reception.

Dr. Farrar explained that the pre-budget submission to the provincial government, which was limited to 500 words, has been sent in. The submission emphasized the funding pressures facing universities, focused on the positive role that universities play in the life of our province (education, research, economic impact, etc.), and argued for the importance of investment in research through the Ontario Research Fund and Ontario Centres of Excellence. Dr. Farrar noted that a McMaster Queen's Park day will occur on March 2, which will see the senior team meeting with a range of key personnel within the provincial government.

The draft SMA document is currently being updated following further discussions with the Ministry. In our discussions with Ministry we advocated for the importance of interdisciplinarity within our programming and the impossibility of separating out different areas of our campus, and also argued that everything we do can be considered an area of strength. The Ministry is insisting that we take a more focused approach, which includes no more than approximately 50 per cent of our enrolment in the strength/growth metric. The Provost's Office is working through a range of scenarios with the Deans to determine how best to respond and position McMaster in a way that appropriately reflects our campus and aspirations and does not prejudice us financially.

Dean MacDonald informed members that at the last COU meeting a discussion occurred where members were asked what they think their roles are and how they interact with colleagues on campus. The group discussed changes to the collaborative nursing program as the Provincial government has signified a pathway for colleges to offer the program separate from universities. Dean MacDonald noted that Mr. David Lindsay thinks COU and members institutions have been good at being reactive but not effective at being proactive. They are looking at what issues to tackle and put forward. It would be helpful for members of Senate to connect with Dean MacDonald to represent McMaster at the table.

### **1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA – OPEN SESSION**

Dr. Farrar confirmed that no request 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 February 12, 2020 and that item 2 be approved by Consent.**

The motion was **carried**.

### **CONSENT**

### **2 MINUTES of the Meeting of January 15, 2020 – Open Session**

Motion:

**that the minutes of the Open Session portion of the meeting held on January 15, 2020 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 REPORT FROM UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL**

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

Dr. Dej explained that there were two items for approval and the remainder of items were for information. Dr. Dej thanked members for reading the lengthy revisions.

1. Curriculum Revisions for Inclusion in the 2020-2021 Undergraduate Calendar
  - a. Faculty of Engineering

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve major revisions to the Honours Bachelor of Applied Science in Computer Science program, for inclusion in the 2020-2021 Undergraduate Calendar, as set out in the attached.**

The motion was **carried**.

A member noted a typo on page 5.

- b. Faculty of Science

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the establishment of the Honours Bachelor of Applied Science in Sustainable Chemistry and Honours Bachelor of Applied Science in Sustainable Chemistry Co-op programs for inclusion in the 2020-2021 Undergraduate Calendar, as set out in the attached.**

The motion was **carried**.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the establishment of the Honours Bachelor of Science in Biodiversity and Environmental Sciences program and corresponding name change, as a modification of the Honours Bachelor of Science in Biology and**

**Environmental Sciences program, for inclusion in the 2020-2021 Undergraduate Calendar, as set out in the attached.**

The motion was **carried**.

c. Faculty of Social Sciences

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the establishment of the Combined Honours Bachelor of Arts in Environment & Society and Another Subject, Honours Bachelor of Arts in Environment & Society, and Bachelor of Arts in Environment & Society programs and corresponding name changes, as modifications of the Combined Honours Bachelor of Arts in Geography and Another Subject, Honours Bachelor of Arts in Geography, and Bachelor of Arts in Geography programs for inclusion in the 2020-2021 Undergraduate Calendar, as set out in the attached.**

The motion was **carried**.

d. Office of the Registrar

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve revisions to Admission Requirements, General Academic Regulations and Student Financial Aid & Scholarships, for inclusion in the 2020-2021 Undergraduate Calendar, as set out in the attached.**

A question was asked regarding the time change for academic commitments from 10:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Ms. Pool explained that the change has to do with the timing of examinations and it would be a rare occurrence. A member noted that they have concerns for students who commute as the last GO bus leaves at 10:30 p.m. and it would not be possible for students to catch the last bus. Ms. Pool explained that it is difficult to schedule all of the December exams and that the 7:30-10:30 p.m. time slot is needed. The only way to reduce the schedule would be to reduce the number of exams. There are 100,000 exams that are scheduled during those days.

A member asked a question regarding the exam schedule being moved to Monday to Sunday and the effect this may have on religious observations. Dr. Dej explained that there are a limited number of days to schedule exams and the change is to provide more options for scheduling. Dr. Dej advised they are hoping for it to be a rare occurrence and noted that students have religious observations with the current schedule. Ms. Pool explained that during the fall break they

cannot have tests on Saturdays so now they can use Sundays. Students will only have exams on Saturday or Sunday.

A question was asked regarding entrance scholarships for academic grants and students withdrawing in the winter. Ms. Pool explained that if students withdraw in the winter, their grant has already been paid and they do not go back and ask for money that has been awarded.

The motion was **carried**.

2. Establishment of New Certificate Programs

a. Concurrent Certificate in Geographic Information Sciences (GIS)

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the establishment of the Concurrent Certificate in Geographic Information Science (GIS), as set out in the attached.**

The motion was **carried**.

b. Concurrent Certificate in Urban Studies & Planning (USP)

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the establishment of the Concurrent Certificate in Urban Studies & Planning (USP), as set out in the attached.**

The motion was **carried**.

The remainder of items were for information.

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 there are two items for approval and the remainder were for information.

1. Research Plagiarism Checking Policy

Dr. Welch thanked everyone involved with the policy. Dr. Welch explained that the policy is a component of the successful strategic alignment from a previous proposal last year. Dr. Welch explained that it was important to frame what the intention was for the use of the software and how it would be used.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the establishment of the Research Plagiarism Checking Policy, as circulated.**

A member asked whether the software is different than Turnitin. Dr. Welch explained that with Turnitin, one of the aspects is that once something is submitted, Turnitin claims it as part of its database. With the new software, you submit the document and it submits it back to you with a coding where there are similarities. There is no copyright issue and they do not retain the file.

A member noted that industrial contracts have a clause to protect intellectual property. Once it goes to a third party, we need to be cognisant that the third party protects it. Dr. Thompson explained that the company is currently moving its servers to Montreal so the data will not go beyond Canada. The company is also bound by the privacy policies of the EU, which are stricter than those of Canada. Dr. Thompson noted that they are working with the office of Legal Services and going through all points of the contract and the agreement will not be signed until we are satisfied.

Dr. Welch explained that the software will be reviewed after it is brought in to ensure it is functioning as intended and the policy will be brought back to Senate with modifications as needed. It is an opportunity for every researcher at the university to use and is beneficial as a preventative measure.

A member noted that the language of the policy does not read as opt in and asked if it can be revised. Dr. Welch explained that it will not be opt in for these.

A member asked a question regarding item 22 of the policy, when the software may not be accessible and if this could be a problem. Dr. Welch explained that they are anticipating possible glitches, but there is no reason to expect it to happen. It outlines a means to get around the lack of availability of the software.

The motion was **carried**.

**1 opposed.**

2. Change to Admission Requirements (G.Dip.) – Professional Accountancy

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the amendment to the admission requirements for the Graduate Diploma in Professional Accountancy program in the Faculty of Business, effective May 1, 2020.**

The motion was **carried**.

The remainder of items were for information.

## 8 REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dr. Susan Searls Giroux, Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic), presented the report.

At its meeting on January 22, 2020, the University Planning Committee approved, for recommendation to Senate, three items.

1. Establishment of New Program

This item was for information.

2. Establishment of the Guidelines for the Governance and Review of Core Research Platforms

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the establishment of the policy on Guidelines for the Governance and Review of Core Research Platforms.**

A question was asked regarding the criteria and how no single user may use more than 80%. Dr. Mossman explained that they looked at best practices from universities around the globe. Selecting 80% allowed for the most flexibility. Dr. Mossman noted that it is unlikely that a single member would use the 80% but there have been some cases where a member has at one point in time. It is difficult to come up with a specific number.

A member asked a question regarding which budget was being used for the project. Dr. Mossman explained that some of cost is covered from new funding, some is dedicated from the VPR office and some is coming from the Provost's office. There will be a realignment of the funds and more strategic use of CFI funds. Dr. Mossman noted that everyone has limited funding and infrastructure. Some will need new funds and some will be using existing funding. The guidelines will help bring it all together and we will be more strategic as a university on how we use the funds.

The motion was **carried**.

3. Proposal for Centre for Clinical Neuroscience (CCN)

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the establishment of new joint centre, the McMaster/St. Joseph's Centre for Clinical Neuroscience (CCN), as an official research centre at McMaster.**

The motion was **carried**.

## 9 REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS

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

Dr. Holloway explained that at its meeting on January 20, 2020, the Committee on Appointments approved three items and now recommends them to Senate for approval.

1. Establishment of the BRIGHT Run Breast Cancer Learning Health System Chair

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the establishment of the BRIGHT Run Breast Cancer Learning Health System Chair.**

The motion was **carried**.

2. Establishment of the McMaster University/Hamilton Health Sciences Chair in Perioperative Care

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the establishment of the McMaster University/Hamilton Health Sciences Chair in Perioperative Care.**

The motion was **carried**.

3. Name Change – PHRI Chair in Cardiology Research

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the name of the PHRI Chair in Cardiology Research be changed to the Stuart Connolly-PHRI Chair in Cardiovascular Research.**

The motion was **carried**.

## 10 REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY CEREMONIALS AND INSIGNIA



Dr. Martin Horn, Chair of the Committee on University Ceremonials and Insignia presented the report.

1. Terms of Reference

At its meeting on January 29, 2020, the Committee approved an amendment to the Terms of Reference and now recommends it to Senate.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve, in principle, the amendment to the Terms of Reference for the Committee on University Ceremonials and Insignia and refer the amendment to the By-Laws Committee for Review.**

The motion was **carried**.

2. McMaster University Coat of Arms and the McMaster University Seal

At its meeting on January 29, 2020, the Committee agreed to adopt a new university coat of arms and university seal.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the recommendation from the Committee on University Ceremonials and Insignia to adopt a new university coat of arms and university seal.**

A member noted that the act of creating a new coat of arms is very expensive and time consuming and should be connected with the university branding as a whole. Choosing poorly could affect the university and the negative outcomes include offending donors and the consumer base. Dr. Horn explained that if Senate agrees with creating a new coat of arms, consultations will occur with the community.

A member commented about the package from the committee not being complete. Dr. Horn explained that what was absent was research on other institution's coat of arms.

A member asked how long the process would take. Dr. Horn explained that he is not certain how long it would take. Dr. Horn added that if Senate does move to a new seal, students should be offered the opportunity to get the new seal on their degrees.

The motion **carried**.

1 opposed, 2 abstentions

**11 OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business for the open session.