

McMaster University

SENATE MINUTES

VOL. LXXVIII

Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.
In the Council Room (111), Gilmour Hall

PRESENT: Dr. David Farrar, Dr. Aaron Schat, Dr. Ameil Joseph, Dr. Bhagwati Gupta, Dr. Christina Baade, Dr. Dina Brooks, Dr. Doug Welch, Dr. Ishwar Puri, Dr. Janie Astephen-Wilson, Dr. Jeremiah Hurley, Dr. Joseph Sokalski, Dr. Judy Fudge, Dr. Juliet Daniel, Dr. Karen Mossman, Dr. Katherine Cuff, Dr. Kathryn Mattison, Dr. Kim Dej, Dr. Kim Jones, Dr. Laura Parker, Dr. Mark Walton, Dr. Martin Horn, Dr. Maureen MacDonald, Dr. Megan Brickley, Dr. Nancy Doubleday, Dr. Nicola Nicolici, Dr. Pamela Swett, Dr. Patrick Bennett, Dr. Peter Miu, Dr. Robert O'Brien, Dr. Sherman Cheung, Dr. Susan Searls Giroux, Dr. Thomas Adams, Ms Manisha Pahwa, Mr. Ryan Witcher, Mr. Tevin Heath, Ms Geil Astorga, Ms Anita Acai, Ms Beth Manganelli Staite, 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 Carolyn Brendon, Ms Esme Davies, Ms Andrea Farquhar, Dr. Jacy Lee, Dr. Alison Sills, Ms Melissa Pool, Mr. Sean Van Koughnett, Dr. Jean Wilson, Ms Rachel Murgel, Dr. Arig al Shaibah, Ms Vivian Lewis

REGRETS RECEIVED: Dr. Alison Holloway, Dr. Anne Niec, Dr. Leonard Waverman, Dr. Lorraine Carter, Dr. Pamela Baxter, Dr. Paul O'Byrne, Dr. Phil Zylla, Mr. Jim McCaughey, Mr. Roger Couldrey, Ms Leah Allen, Dr. Chandrima Chakraborty,

A. OPEN SESSION

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Farrar welcomed members to the meeting.

Dr. Farrar noted that it is the first meeting since he was approved as President. Dr. Farrar thanked everyone for the confidence they have placed in him and noted that he would do his best to serve the University and live up to Senator's expectations in the years ahead. Dr. Farrar stated that he has only been at McMaster for a little over two years, but that has been long enough for him to realize that McMaster has something very special. McMaster has a well-deserved global reputation for innovative teaching and ground-breaking research, and has talented committed students, outstanding faculty, and an excellent staff team to support teaching, learning and research. Dr. Farrar explained that he would like to build on all of those areas and to find new ways to solve the major challenges facing our world and be an even more effective and innovative partner to our City and our region.

Dr. Farrar explained that in the early part of this year he plans to engage the McMaster community in a visioning exercise that will consider the evolution of our University, our priorities, and what we want to achieve. The McMaster community will be asked what they would like the university to be in 20 years. Dr. Farrar noted that he is interested in how large the university is and innovative approaches to learning. McMaster is still in a period of transition and searches for a permanent Provost and Vice-President (Research) will be occurring as soon as possible.

Dr. Farrar addressed the Brighter World Research Initiative and his interest in how other people view the initiative. The VPR, Deans and University Advancement are working with researchers across campus to define the areas of focus and establish project teams before formally launching the initiative. Dr. Farrar noted that he is interested in partnerships at both the global and local level, and building on positive relations more locally, both within the City, and with the Six Nations Community. Work is underway to implement the EDI Strategic Plan, which was launched last year. Dr. Farrar explained that a lot of activity will go into moving the EDI strategy forward at all levels and in all areas of campus.

The draft SMA3 submission was provided to the Ministry just prior to the holiday break and we are currently waiting to hear more about the next steps. Dr. Farrar noted that MUFA is arranging a Town Hall on February 10, 2020 for any Senators, faculty members and others who are interested in learning more about this.

Dr. Farrar acknowledged the tragic events of last week and the loss of two McMaster PhD students, Iman Aghabali and Mehdi Eshaghian, as well as former post doctoral fellow Siavash Maghsoudlou. The university has done a tremendous amount in terms of support provided and offering condolences. A student-organized vigil was held last Friday and was attended by more than 300 members of our community. Many members of the University also participated in a moment of silence at 1:00 p.m. today to honour those lost. The University will continue to work with all those affected by these terrible events over the coming weeks and months.

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 January 15, 2020 and that item 2 be approved by Consent.

Moved. Seconded. Carried.

CONSENT

2 MINUTES of the Meeting of December 11, 2019 – Open Session

Motion:

that the minutes of the Open Session portion of the meeting held on December 11, 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 REPORT FROM UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

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

Dr. Dej explained that the items are for information. Changes included amendments to awards and minor revisions of the 2020-2021 calendar.

7 REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

At its meeting on December 11, 2019, the University Planning Committee approved, for recommendation to Senate, three program closures. The closures are a result of the merging of programs.

- a. Honours Bachelor of Science in Geography and Environmental Sciences and Honours Bachelor of Science in Geography and Environmental Sciences Co-op

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the closure of the Honours Bachelor of Science in

Geography and Environmental Sciences and Honours Bachelor of Science in Geography and Environmental Sciences Co-op programs, as set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried**.

- b. Honours Bachelor of Arts in Geography and Environmental Studies

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the closure of the Honours Bachelor of Arts in Geography and Environmental Studies program, as set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried**.

- c. Combined Honours Arts & Science and Human Geography

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the closure of the Combined Honours Arts & Science and Human Geography program, as set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried**.

8 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business for the open session.