

McMaster University

SENATE MINUTES

VOL. LXXVII

Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.

Zoom

PRESENT: Dr. David Farrar, Dr. Aaron Schat, Dr. Alison Holloway, Dr. Ameil Joseph, Dr. Anne Niec, Dr. Bhagwati Gupta, Dr. Carlos Filipe, Dr. Christina Baade, Dr. Dina Brooks, Dr. Doug Welch, Dr. Erik Sorensen, Dr. Hans Boden, 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. Leonard Waverman, Dr. Lorraine Carter, Dr. Mark Walton, 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, Dr. Thomas Adams, Mr. Gary Collins, Mr. Jim McCaughey, Mr. Ryan Whitcher, Mr. Tevin Heath, Ms Manisha Pahwa, Ms Cassidy Bereskin, Ms Geil Astorga, Ms Anita Acai, Ms Leah Allen, 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 Sless (Governance Coordinator)

OBSERVERS: Ms. Carolyn Brendon, Dr. Sandra Carroll, Ms Esme Davies, Dr. Susan Denburg, Ms Andrea Farquhar, Mr. Giancarlo Da-Ré, Dr. Jacy Lee, Ms. Vivian Lewis, Dr Alison Sills, Ms Melissa Pool, Mr. Sean Van Koughnett, Dr. Arig al Shaibah, Dr. Peter Mascher,

REGRETS RECEIVED: Dr. Paul O'Bryne, Dr. Laura Parker

A. OPEN SESSION

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Farrar welcomed members to the meeting.

Dr. Farrar thanked faculty, students, staff and alumni, for their support and willingness to adjust during this challenging period and congratulated the students who managed to finish their academic years, and in some cases completed their degrees, in these unusual and unexpected circumstances. Those engaged in essential services were thanked for working so hard to keep the campus running and ready for when everyone is able to return.

All classes for both Spring and Summer sessions are being offered in remote teaching environments. The first INSPIRE courses are being offered this year, including INSPIRE 1A03 which began last week.

Dr. Farrar explained that a decision about the fall delivery of programs has not yet been made and that planning for different scenarios is occurring. The Provost's office is collecting faculty wide information on academic planning across all of the programs to ensure that the appropriate support for the virtual learning environment is provided. The Vice-President (Research) (VPR) office has been leading the planning for a gradual, phased return of on-camps and fieldwork research and Dr. Mossman provided further information in the VPR update. The University's decisions continue to be guided by Public Health Ontario requirements but planning is ongoing for a gradual and safe return to campus as soon as there is an indication that this can occur. The senior leadership is engaged in planning for a range of scenarios with contingencies, but the outcome will depend upon the restrictions that are in place.

Dr. Farrar noted that the University's senior leadership and Government Relations team are working closely with COU, Univcan, U15 and the Ministry directly, to ensure that the federal and provincial governments are aware of the impacts of COVID-19 on students, staff, faculty, the research, and the institution as a whole.

Senators were advised that due to the impact on academic decision-making and the need to keep the community informed, Senate meetings are being planned for July and possibly August this year. The Secretariat will provide more information on these meetings.

Dr. Farrar noted the work being undertaken by the researchers and the recent policy, SBS B13, that was created to deal with impacts of COVID-19.

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 May 13, 2020 and that items 2 and 3 be approved or received by Consent.

The motion was **carried**.

CONSENT

2 MINUTES of the Meeting of April 8, 2020 – Open Session

Motion:

That the minutes of the Open Session portion of the meeting held on April 8, 2020 be approved as circulated.

Approved by Consent.

3 REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**a. SBS B13**

Received by Consent.

REGULAR**4 BUSINESS ARISING**

There was no business arising.

5 ENQUIRIES

There were no enquiries.

6 COMMUNICATIONS**a. COVID-19 Update from Acting Vice-Provost, Faculty**

Dr. Kim Dej, Acting Vice-Provost, Faculty provided an update.

Dr. Dej explained that decisions being made around undergraduate planning are being informed by Public Health and that discussions are happening with many units across campus. Consultations have occurred with Deans, MUFA, Human Resources Services, and the Crisis Management Group. The winter 2020 term has been completed and exams were either delivered remotely or instructors chose other formats. Dr. Dej thanked everyone for their contribution and involvement. The spring and summer courses are being offered in a remote learning environment.

Dr. Dej reminded members that the first question was changed on the student evaluations. The first question is now "*how would you describe your learning experience*". Spring and Summer enrollment is up 48% for international students which indicates that students are willing to take courses in a remote environment. Many courses are at full capacity. Contingency planning is occurring for remote delivery of all courses in Fall 2020. The goal is to deliver high quality undergraduate and graduate programs. Dr. Dej explained that some components are being looked at in more detail such as online proctoring tools. There is a group looking at all of the aspects that are important including ethics and the appropriateness. They are also exploring engagement in a remote environment and what a return to campus will look like.

A member noted that UBC and McGill have made an announcement that the fall term will be offered online and asked what the thought process is for McMaster. Dr. Farrar explained that it is something the University has started to think about. There is a need for clarity with respect to the learning environment. Conversations are occurring

about the extent to which to signal that there will be a significant online component. Dr. Farrar noted that clinical placements and labs need to occur in person so there will be a component that will involve the campus.

b. COVID-19 Update from Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies

Dr. Doug Welch, Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies provided an update.

Dr. Welch noted that the online Ph.D. defences has been working incredibly smoothly and they will be kept as an option indefinitely. Graduate course work and grade options and non-traditional grade options, were communicated to students, two days away from the deadline. As of yesterday, there had been only 15 graduate students requesting a change. Individual faculty communications were put together explaining what the plans were for financial support, graduation issues, and interim measures for emergency funding when necessary. Dr. Welch explained that it is necessary to communicate on a faculty by faculty basis due to how students are supported differently.

Students with study permits that have already been issued could arrive to campus but there has been no communication from IRCC about whether new study permits will be issued for students to arrive before the fall term. Meetings will occur to determine how to assist with self isolation prior to the students participating in on campus activities. Dr. Welch explained that one of the highlights is that the university library has arranged for access to the non-digital items. This is a benefit for social sciences and humanities research students and researchers and provides them with online access to a significant source of items. Dr. Welch thanked Ms Vivian Lewis.

A member asked a question regarding international graduate students arriving with children and whether on campus daycare will be offered. Dr. Welch explained that some individuals that have arrived have been accompanied by a spouse and there would be no difficulty in having children isolating with their parents. Dr. Welch advised that he will have to follow up with daycare.

c. COVID-19 Update from Associate Vice-President (Students and Learning) and Dean of Students

Mr. Sean Van Koughnett, Associate Vice-President (Students and Learning) and Dean of Students, provided an update.

Mr. Van Koughnett explained that McMaster historically plans May@Mac, a one day in-person recruitment event. This event has been made virtual, with tours, chats, and webinars conducted throughout the month. June 1, 2020 is the deadline for students to accept their offers of admission. Mr. Van Koughnett explained that there is a lot of activity with the residences. There are currently 70 international students living in residence. The residences are also a location where international faculty and students can be quarantined. Residence accommodations are being looked at as the end of

summer approaches. There are some details that need to be worked out such as programs that allow medical students to stay in residence. Mr. Van Koughnett explained that they want to work with off campus housing to ensure there are flexible lease options, more forgiving exits and to make students aware of their options.

Convocation will consist of online celebrations and the Registrar's Office has put together videos and messages of congratulations. Once the campus opens, there will be printed diplomas and degrees provided. Currently, students are able to obtain a digital copy of their diploma.

The new first year transition program, Archway, is aimed to support every incoming first year undergraduate student by connecting them to an upper year student. The program will continue regardless of the situation next year. There will not be the same opportunities to gather, but it is important to ensure that students are connected to the community.

A question was asked regarding how student athletes and varsity students are going to be impacted. Mr. Van Koughnett explained that scenario planning is occurring, and coaches are doing what they can to work with individuals. It is a difficult situation and they need to ensure the health and safety of the students.

A question was asked by a member regarding the student benefit announcement by the federal government and how it will change the strategy and rationale for the student emergency fund. Mr. Van Koughnett explained that it will not change the current strategy. The Scholarships office handles the request and a one on one discussion occurs to determine the needs of the student. The office will assess the needs and distribute the funding based on the need.

d. COVID-19 Update from Acting Vice-President, Research

Dr. Karen Mossman, Acting Vice-President, Research provided an update. Dr. Mossman explained that the research office has been busy and there have been meetings with U15, Tri-Agency, and other government agencies. Support is being provided to researchers and there are different funding opportunities. McMaster researchers have significant participation in the multidisciplinary Ontario Together COVID-19 Rapid Research Fund. Researchers invited by Ontario to submit proposals had a one week turnaround for submission of a full application. Dr. Mossman noted that they did hear from the Province that a large number of proposals came from McMaster. Dr. Mossman noted that funding for research is coming from McMaster, some generous donors and they are working with University Advancement. Two different aspects are being examined, immediate impacts such as a vaccine, therapeutics and diagnostics, and AI solutions, and longer-term outcomes such as economic, city planning and societal health.

The University has planned for a gradual, phased return of on-campus and fieldwork research. Input has been received from Associate Deans of Research and operations

groups on how researchers can be supported to come back to campus safely. Phase 1 involves individuals that have to be on campus to complete work, others are still being encouraged to work from home.

A member noted the outstanding support from the VPR office and asked a question regarding staff and faculty's desire to have access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and if there has been any effort at the faculty level to purchase a large quantity of equipment to be made available to staff. Dr. Mossman explained that they have been working with Ms Debbie Martin, Ms Dee Henne and procurement. There will be an order at the end of May for a large order of PPE to address these issues. Dr. Mossman noted that they want to make sure that the equipment is provided, if researchers have to access hospitals, they need to have PPE. Dr. Farrar added that Public Health does not require individuals to wear a mask and that it is a personal choice.

e. COVID-19 Update from Vice-Provost, International Affairs

Dr. Peter Mascher, Vice-Provost, International Affairs provided an update.

Dr. Mascher explained that the focus has moved on from crisis management/damage control mode to actively looking ahead to what the world of international education will look like post COVID-19. Summer programs had to be cancelled and they are on the verge of cancelling outgoing and incoming mobility for the fall semester. Dr. Mascher noted that over the past two months, a strong and active community has developed that are trying to find common ground and to exchange best practices and discuss ways forward. Expertise is being shared with U15 partners and there will be some interesting approaches that we can take advantage of. There is now a surge of interest in how to do internationalization virtually and we are partnering with universities across the world that have experience.

7 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 involving five motions for approval.

1. New Certificate and Diploma Programs

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the establishment of the Certificate in Data Analytics, as set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried**.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Senate approve the establishment of the Certificate in Data Science, as set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried.**

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the establishment of the Certificate in Big Data Programming and Architecture, as set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried.**

2. Closure of Certificate and Diploma Programs

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the closure of the Certificate in Foundations of Analytics effective September 2020, as set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried.**

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the closure of the Certificate in Big Data Analytics effective September 2020, as set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried.**

The remainder of items were for information.

8 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 were four items for approval.

1. Faculty of Business

a. MBA

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the amendment to the admission requirements for the MBA program in the Faculty of Business, effective September 2020.

A member questioned why the MCAT will be accepted for a business school, and whether the LSAT will be accepted as well. Dr. Welch explained that the MCAT is a standardized test where there is a level of understanding. Dr. Waverman noted that they occasionally have doctors apply to the program and that asking them to also do the GMAT would be too much pressure, and that the Faculty of Business will look at adding the LSAT.

The motion was **carried**.

b. Blended-Learning Part-Time MBA

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the amendment to the admission requirements for the Blended-Learning Part-Time MBA program in the Faculty of Business, effective September 2020.

The motion was **carried**.

2. Faculty of Engineering

a. Biomedical Engineering

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the new accelerated and direct-entry options for M.A.Sc. and Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, effective September 2020.

The motion was **carried**.

b. School of Engineering Practice and Technology

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the change to the admission requirements for the M.E.P.P. program in the Faculty of Engineering, effective September 2020.

The motion was **carried**.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the cancellation of the Smart Systems and Process and Production Systems and Engineering Design and Operations Improvement streams in M.Eng.D. in the Faculty of Engineering, effective September 2020.

The motion was **carried**.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the cancellations of the Automotive Manufacturing and Digital Manufacturing streams and the creation of a new stream in Discrete Manufacturing in M.E.M.E in the Faculty of Engineering, effective September 2020.

The motion was **carried**.

3. Faculty of Health Sciences

a. Physiotherapy

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the change to admission requirements for the M.Sc.PT program in the Faculty of Health Sciences, effective September 2020.

The motion was **carried**.

b. Health Sciences Education

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the change to program requirements for the M.Sc. in the Faculty of Health Sciences, effective September 2020.

The motion was **carried**.

4. Faculty of Humanities

a. Classics

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the creation of a dual degree stream Ph.D. within the Department of Classics in the Faculty of Humanities, effective September 2020.

The motion was **carried**.

The remainder of items were for information.

9 REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dr. Susan Searls-Giroux, Chair of the University Planning Committee, presented the report.

At its meeting on April 15, 2020, the University Planning Committee approved the establishment of the Academy for Microcredentials and External Learning and is now recommending it to Senate for approval.

1. Academy for Microcredentials and External Learning

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the establishment of the Academy for Microcredentials and External Learning, as circulated.

The motion was **carried**.

10 REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY CEREMONIALS & INSIGNIA

This item was included for information.

11 REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON BY-LAWS

Dr. Peter Miu, Chair of the Committee on By-Laws, presented the report.

Dr. Miu explained that on April 30, 2020, the Committee on By-Laws approved two items and now recommends them to Senate for approval.

1. Amendment to the Faculty of Humanities By-Laws

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate, on the recommendation of the Committee on By-Laws, approve the proposed amendments to the Faculty of Humanities By-Laws as circulated.

The motion was **carried**.

2. Amendments to the Senate By-Laws

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate, on the recommendation of the Committee on By-Laws, approve the proposed amendments to the Senate By-Laws, Section IX 129, The Committee on University Ceremonials and Insignia, as circulated.

The motion was **carried**.

12 REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

Mr. Sean Van Koughnett, Chair of the Committee on Student Affairs, presented the report.

Mr. Van Koughnett explained that on May 5, 2020 the Committee on Student Affairs approved the revisions to the Policy on Student Groups and now recommends it to Senate for approval.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the revisions to the Policy on Student Groups (Recognition, Risk Assessment, and Event Planning) as circulated.

The motion was **carried**.

13 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 on April 20, 2020, the Committee on Appointments approved two items and now recommends them to Senate for approval.

1. TOR – Alba DiCenso Professorship in Advanced Practice Nursing

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve that the name of the Alba DiCenso Professorship in Advanced Practice Nursing be changed to the Alba DiCenso Chair in Advanced Practice Nursing, as circulated.

The motion was **carried**.

2. TOR – Vice Dean, Education

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the amendment to the terms of reference for the Vice Dean, Education, as circulated.

The motion was **carried**.

14 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business for the open session.