

McMaster University

SENATE MINUTES

VOL. XC

Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.

Zoom

PRESENT: Dr. David Farrar, Dr. Anna Danielova, Dr. Carlos Filipe, Dr. Christina Baade, Dr. Dina Brooks, Dr. Doug Welch, Dr. Graham Scott, Dr. Ishwar Puri, Dr. Janie Astephen-Wilson, Dr. Jeff Weitz, 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. Lorraine Carter, Dr. Maikel Rheinstadter, Dr. Mark Walton, Dr. Martin Horn, Dr. Matthew Miller, Dr. Maureen MacDonald, Dr. Megan Brickley, Dr. Melinda Gough, Dr. Nicola Nicolici, Dr. Nikolai Penner, Dr. Pamela Baxter, Dr. Pamela Swett, Dr. Patrick Bennett, Dr. Peter Miu, Dr. Peter Graefe, Dr. Phil Zylla, Dr. Sherman Cheung, Dr. Susan Tighe, Dr. Todd Hoare, Ms Alyaa Abdelhalim, Ms Bahar Amani, Ms Beth Manganelli Staite, Mr. Gary Collins, Ms Haleigh Wallace, Ms Leah Allan, Ms Mary Williams, Ms Moira Taylor, Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, Ms Nicole Anozie, Ms Nicole Areias, Mr. Roger Couldrey, Mr. Ryan Witcher, Mr. Jim McCaughey, Ms Andrea Thyret-Kidd (University Secretary), Ms Michelle Zheng (Associate University Secretary), Ms Alysha Sless (Governance Coordinator)

REGRETS: Dr. Jeremiah Hurley, Dr. Leonard Waverman, Dr. Paul O’Byrne

OBSERVERS: Ms Andrea Farquhar, Dr. Arig al Shaibah, Ms Carolyn Brendon, Ms Esme Davies, Dr. Elkafi Hassini, Ms Maanvi Dhillon, Ms Melissa Pool, Dr. Peter Mascher, Dr. Sandra Carroll, Ms Linda Coslovi

A. OPEN SESSION

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Farrar welcomed members to the meeting and reminded Senators of Zoom protocols.

Dr. Farrar explained that as Senators will have seen, Laurentian University filed for creditor protection earlier this month citing what it called “unprecedented” challenges after a decade of financial strain. Dr. Farrar noted that this is an unusual case, and that McMaster is not in the same situation. Laurentian has suffered from declining enrolment and demographics over a number of years, largely because of its location, and has also been carrying substantial debt that the institution is unable to service. All universities borrow however Laurentian had borrowed three different times for operational items and had spent restricted reserves. Dr. Farrar explained that Alan Harrison has been appointed as a special advisor to advise on options to support Laurentian’s path back to financial sustainability. There have been some indications of potential

government intervention, including the discussion of legislation being passed to allow greater oversight of every university's finances. COU, Executive Heads and Financial Officers have been working closely around this and advocating to the government. COU has prepared robust financial data on all the province's institutions and is sharing this with the Ministry to demonstrate the fiscal responsibility, and financial situation of universities across the province. COU has also prepared key messages reminding the government and others of the many reporting requirements and measures of financial accountability for universities. Dr. Farrar assured Senators that McMaster is not in danger of experiencing a similar situation as there are very few similarities between Laurentian and McMaster in terms of financial controls and processes. However, we are concerned about the potential provincial response and will continue, as a sector, to present our case to government.

An announcement was made on additional measures to be imposed on visitors arriving from overseas. Dr. Farrar explained that as a sector we are continuing to advocate for an exemption for international students from the federal requirement to quarantine at an airport hotel. Currently, McMaster has around 36 graduate students hoping to arrive within the next few weeks, as well as a number of undergraduate students. There is a detailed plan in place, and approved by Public Health, for the arrival and quarantining process for international students. This additional requirement adds a further level of complexity.

Yesterday the province announced the allocation of an additional \$7M in mental health and addiction services funding to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. These funds will be distributed to colleges and universities through the Mental Health Services Grant at a rate of \$100K per institution and will be used to further support student mental health and related services

The University recently announced that undergraduate academic activities will be hosted remotely for the Spring/Summer/Intersession term, with a few exceptions for courses that need student access to specialized equipment. Dr. Farrar explained that a decision has not yet been made about the Fall 2021 term but as mentioned at the last meeting, the University administration is engaged in working through the scenarios and issues, with a view to making a well-informed and thoughtful announcement. The Provost, Dr. Susan Tighe, is leading a cross-campus group, supported by experts from across the University, to review data and develop scenarios that will consider ways to allow as much activity on campus as possible in September. Dr. Farrar noted that as part of our consideration of student services and supports, a McMaster Student Census and Experience Survey is currently underway. The survey launched last week and will be open until March 5, 2021. All students, including student Senators, are encouraged to participate and share their views and perspectives on current and needed services and supports.

Dr. Farrar reminded Senators that February is Black History Month and a good opportunity for us to reflect on the importance of inclusive excellence and diversity in our community, and the integral contributions of colleagues and students from the Black/African diaspora to our community. Dr. Farrar noted that he is very pleased that McMaster was able to launch the Black Excellence initiative late last year to promote and support the hiring of a cohort of Black faculty, as well as targeted programs, scholarships and supports for Black students. A program of events are underway throughout Black History Month, intended to strengthen our awareness of and

commitment to addressing racism, while also recognizing and promoting Black excellence. Senators were informed that further information is available from the Equity and Inclusion Office.

Dr. Farrar reminded Senators that the Secretariat is looking for two scrutineers for the Faculty Elections to Senate. It will take place over Zoom and will not be a large time commitment. Interested individuals were asked to please email senate@mcmaster.ca.

1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA – OPEN SESSION

Dr. Farrar confirmed that no requests had been received to move 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 10, 2021 and that items 2 and 3 be approved or received by Consent.

The motion was **carried**.

CONSENT

2 MINUTES of the Meeting of January 13, 2021 – Open Session

Motion:

that the minutes of the Open Session portion of the meeting held on January 13, 2021 be approved as circulated.

Approved by Consent.

3 REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Actions Taken on Behalf of Senate: Facilitated Black Applicant Admissions Pathway for the Midwifery Education Program

Received by Consent.

REGULAR

4 BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

5 ENQUIRIES

There were no enquiries.

6 COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

7 REPORT FROM UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

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

Dr. Dej explained that there were three items for approval.

1. Establishment of New Certificate and Diploma Programs

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the establishment of the Certificate and Diploma Programs as set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried**.

2. Revisions to Certificate and Diploma Programs**a. McMaster English Language Development Diploma (MELD)**

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the revisions to the McMaster English Language Development Diploma (MELD), as set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried**.

b. McMaster English Readiness for Graduate Excellence Certificate (MERGE)

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the revisions to the McMaster English Readiness for Graduate Excellence Certificate (MERGE), as set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried**.

3. Addenda to Curriculum Revisions for Inclusion in the 2021-2022 Undergraduate Calendar

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the revisions to the Admission Requirements and Application Procedures, for inclusion in the 2021-2022 Undergraduate Calendar, as recommended by the Office of the Registrar, and set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried**.

The remainder of items were for information.

8 REPORT FROM GRADUATE COUNCIL

This report was for information.

9 REPORT FROM THE FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

Dr. James Gillett, Social Sciences Senator, presented the report.

Dr. Gillett explained that the Faculty of Social Sciences is proposing an amendment to the committee memberships lists, the removal and addition of committees and the updating of committee names.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve, in principle, the amendments to the Faculty of Social Sciences By-Laws and refer the amendments to the By-Laws Committee for review.

The motion was **carried**.

10 REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY CEREMONIALS AND INSIGNIA

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

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve that the Master of Public Policy degree assumes the degree abbreviation M.P.P. and that it adopts the hood description currently used by the Master of Arts: black silk, lined with white silk and bound over the anterior side with red silk and over the posterior side with grey silk.

The motion was **carried**.

11 REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Katherine Cuff, Chair, Committee on Appointments, presented the report.

Dr. Cuff explained that there were five items for approval.

1. Terms of Reference

- a. ToR – Associate Vice-President (Research)
- b. ToR – Director, Experiential Learning
- c. ToR – Associate Dean, Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the proposed revisions to the Terms of Reference listed above, as circulated.

The motion was **carried**.

2. SPS B13 Revisions

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the revised Supplementary Policy Statement B13 – Extension of Timeline for Academic Assessments in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, effective March 4, 2021.

The motion was **carried**.

3. Establishment of the McMaster Children’s Hospital Chair in Autism and Neurodevelopment

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the establishment of the McMaster Children’s Hospital Chair in Autism and Neurodevelopment.

The motion was **carried**.

4. Establishment of the Jack Gauldie Boehring Ingelheim Chair in Interstitial Lung Disease

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the establishment of the Jack Gauldie Boehring Ingelheim Chair in Interstitial Lung Disease.

The motion was **carried**.

5. Name Change – David Braley Chair in Human Stem Cell Research

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the name change of the David Braley Chair in Human Stem Cell Research be changed to the David Braley Chair in Computational Biology.

The motion was **carried**.

12 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.