

McMaster University

SENATE MINUTES

VOL. LXXXIX

Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.

Zoom

PRESENT: Dr. David Farrar, Dr. Anna Danielova, Dr. Carlos Filipe, Dr. Chandrima Chakraborty, Dr. Christina Baade, Dr. Dina Brooks, Dr. Doug Welch, Dr. Graham Scott, Dr. Ishwar Puri, Dr. Janie Astephen-Wilson, Dr. Jeff Weitz, Dr. Jeremiah Hurley, Dr. Juliet Daniel, Dr. Karen Mossman, Dr. Katherine Cuff, Dr. Kathryn Mattison, Dr. Kim Dej, Dr. Kim Jones, Dr. Laura Parker, Dr. Leonard Waverman, Dr. Lia Bronsard, 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. Sherman Cheung, Dr. Susan Tighe, Dr. Todd Hoare, Ms Anita Acai, Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, Ms Leah Allan, Ms Bahar Amani, Ms Nicole Anozie, Ms Nicole Areias, Ms Cassidy Bereskin, Mr. Gary Collins, Ms Linda Coslovi, Mr. Roger Couldrey, Ms Beth Manganelli Staite, Mr. Jim McCaughey, Mr. Dalue Tang, , Ms Moira Taylor, Ms Haleigh Wallace, Ms Mary Williams, Ms Andrea Thyret-Kidd (University Secretary), Ms Michelle Zheng (Associate University Secretary), Ms Alysha Sless (Governance Coordinator)

OBSERVERS: Ms Andrea Farquhar, Ms Carolyn Brendon, Ms Esme Davies, Dr. Elkafi Hassini, Mr. Giancarlo Da-Ré, Dr. Jean Wilson, Dr. Peter Mascher, Dr. Sandra Carroll, Mr. Sean Van Koughnett

A. OPEN SESSION

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Farrar welcomed members to the meeting and wished everyone best wishes for the coming year. Senators were reminded of Zoom protocols.

Dr. Farrar explained that the Ontario government has declared a State of Emergency (effective January 12) and a Stay at Home order, which comes into effect at 12:01 a.m. tomorrow. The decisions McMaster has made during the pandemic mean that in many cases the University does not need to alter its protocols based on the new provincial rules. The details of the new regulations are being reviewed and decisions that impact any programs or services will be shared with the University community as soon as they are available. Dr. Farrar noted that the majority of University employees are already working from home with only essential work being carried out on campus. However, the number of people working from a University location increased as restrictions were eased through the summer. It is important that supervisors review any access arrangements to ensure that any employees working on campus are only doing so in exceptional

circumstances and meet the requirement that only essential workers be in the workplace. Discussions are ongoing regarding the status of on-campus research and fieldwork activities and the Vice-President (Research), Dr. Karen Mossman, will communicate any updates directly to the research community and they will also be available on the university's COVID-19 website.

Planning has begun for the 2021/22 academic year. The Provost will be leading a cross-campus group to work on this and to take a broad and holistic approach, which includes considerations for learning, teaching, research and work as we move through the next stages of the pandemic. We will keep Senators updated throughout this process. Dr. Tighe explained that more communications will be coming forward about how we will proceed forward for the return to McMaster. There will be special considerations for teaching and research. Dr. Tighe noted that they will be following Public Health guidelines closely and will be soliciting advice more broadly from the McMaster community.

Dr. Farrar explained that following the last Senate meeting, the search for the role of Senior Advisor, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism in Student Affairs has been completed and will be announced imminently. As mentioned previously, this individual will lead many of the other action items arising from the review of Black student-athlete experiences in time for the start of the 2021/22 academic year.

A member asked if Dr. Tighe could explain what hybrid learning means. Dr. Tighe explained that there is no exact definition. Since campus will likely not be able to hold large lectures, and the 600-person lecture hall will not be full, they are thinking about a hybrid where the lecture hall will have a reduced number of students in attendance and other students will participate virtually. There is interest in being able to host classes on campus and they are also looking at holding smaller upper year classes in larger classrooms.

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 January 13, 2021 and that item 2 be approved by Consent.

The motion was **carried**.

CONSENT

2 MINUTES of the Meeting of December 9, 2020 – Open Session

Motion:

that the minutes of the Open Session portion of the meeting held on December 9, 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

a. COU Update

This item was for information.

6 REPORT FROM GRADUATE COUNCIL

This report was for information.

7 REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dr. Farrar explained that the Certificate of Completion in Advanced Manufacturing was presented and approved through Undergraduate Council at the last Senate meeting.

8 REPORT FROM THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

Dr. Pamela Swett, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, presented the report.

Dr. Swett explained that the Faculty of Humanities and the department of Communication Studies and Multimedia has voted in favour of a department name change. The name of the department has been updated to better capture what is done in the program.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the change in name of the Department of Communication Studies and Multimedia (CSMM) to the Department of Communication Studies and Media Arts (CSMA), effective July 1, 2021.

The motion was **carried**.

9 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.