

McMaster University

SENATE MINUTES

VOL. XCIII

Wednesday, May 12, 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. Ishwar Puri, Dr. Jeff Weitz, Dr. Jeremiah Hurley, 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. 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. Paul O’Byrne, Dr. Peter Graefe, Dr. Peter Miu, Dr. Phil Zylla, Dr. Sherman Cheung, Dr. Susan Tighe, Dr. Todd Hoare, Ms Alyaa Abdelhalim, Ms Bahar Amani, Ms Beth Manganelli Staite, Mr. Dalue Tang, Mr. Gary Collins, Ms Haleigh Wallace, Ms Leah Allan, Ms Mary Williams, Ms Moira Taylor, Mr. Muneeb Ahmed, Ms Nicole Areias, Mr. Jim McCaughey, Ms Andrea Thyret-Kidd (University Secretary), Ms Michelle Zheng (Associate University Secretary), Ms Alysha Sless (Governance Coordinator)

OBSERVERS: Dr. Arig al Shaibah, Ms Carolyn Brendon, Mr. Denver Della-Vedova, Ms Esme Davies, Ms Linda Coslovi, Dr. Jean Wilson, Ms Maanvi Dhillon, Ms Melissa Pool, Dr. Elkafi Hassini, Dr. Peter Mascher, Dr. Sandra Carroll, Mr. Sean Van Koughnett, Ms Vivian Lewis, Ms Karen Richmond, Ms Caroline Seiler

A. OPEN SESSION

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Farrar welcomed members to the meeting and provided an overview of Zoom protocols.

Dr. Farrar explained that they are planning for the fall and working hard to make decisions to provide certainty to the community as soon as possible. Provost Susan Tighe published a detailed update on our plans for students at the end of April and more information will follow soon. Our goal continues to be to provide safe and meaningful in-person experiences for our students, including more in-person learning opportunities across all Faculties; on-campus student services; small group study, meeting and club space; access to critical learning supports like the library; and access to amenities like the gym and food services. Dr. Farrar added that they will continue to update the existing safety protocols based on public health guidelines and the advice of McMaster’s experts. Though they are optimistic that Ontario’s stay-at-home order will lift well before the fall, they are also planning to reduce in-person activity if necessary to accommodate Public Health measures. Detailed information about course selection and delivery, in-person

components, and experiential learning opportunities will be provided directly by the relevant Faculties. Dr. Farrar explained that they are also closely monitoring travel restrictions and study permit processing times and are providing information and services to help support our international students who plan to join in the fall.

Dr. Tighe added that a residence update was released yesterday, and McMaster will try to have as many rooms as possible open for first year students. Dr. Tighe acknowledged Mr. Sean Van Koughnett and Mr. Kevin Beattie for getting the information out to applicants. It is important to ensure students are aware as it is a critical time, and they are accepting offers of admission. A report from the Oversight Committee will be released shortly containing a number of recommendations. It will provide planning activities, how to monitor the campus and how to deliver high quality programs. Dr. Tighe acknowledged how proud she is of the whole community.

A member noted their concern that some deadlines seem to be coming ahead of some of the decisions. The member has received emails from students and noted that it seems that the students have more information than the faculty. Dr. Tighe noted that the Dean of Science had raised the issue in another meeting to ensure that everyone is communicating through the proper structures. There are a number of activities happening with respect to specific planning and they need to be clear with the whole community. There were some communications to students sped up due to emerging issues like the Premier's announcement around international students.. Dr. MacDonald noted that faculty members receive many emails and if the email looks like it is to a student it may not be read thoroughly.

Dr. Dej added that "in person" class means looking forward to having you on campus but does not mean 100% in person. Students are being signaled that they need to be on or near campus.

A question was raised regarding the use of smartboards. It was explained that a conversation was held with MUFA and they are following up with different departments that are doing neat things. Dr. Dej added that they cannot and should not enable all rooms with technology. Dr. Tighe added that they want to ensure that faculty are capable of delivering their courses and not to worry about the infrastructure in a room.

A member added that they are happy to discuss some of the things happening in Humanities, such as optional drop-in sessions with a maximum number of students to have an in-person meeting. The member thanked Dr. Tighe for the clear messaging to alert international students who have accepted their offer. The member also asked if there is any sense of a timeline of hearing back from the federal government on our proposed plan for quarantining international students. Dr. Tighe commented there is a plan in place, but it is a moving target and the whole process is a dynamic operation. They have been trying to look at information daily and communicate out what is known. Dr. Welch added that the bulk of work has been led by Mr. Sean Van Koughnett and his team. They had to change the readiness plan as they could no longer make use of the residences for quarantining students. They have submitted an initial plan and questions have come back from the Ministry and is going through the Government Relations

team today. In response to a question, Mr. Van Koughnett explained that it is not possible to have international students arrive earlier as renovations occur in the residences in June and July.

A member raised a concern around letting students know how their courses will be offered. The member mentioned that if it states in person and only a portion is in person that students may feel frustrated as they may be expecting the course to be offered fully in person. Dr. Tighe explained that everything on campus has to be in accordance with Public Health. They are trying to be clear and transparent. Dr. Dej added that what they are allowed to do on campus is out of their control. They will be coming out with two pieces of communication to clarify the components. They are also communicating on Avenue to Learn and opening it in August so that if students need to switch their classes they can.

A member asked what the codes are for mixed components. Dr. Dej explained that the codes are O – online, V – virtual, P – in person, L01 – lecture, T01 – tutorial and that within the P there will be more clarification. They will be articulated without the use of acronyms within Avenue to Learn.

A member noted that they were advised to submit their syllabus soon and asked about the timelines. Dr. Dej advised that there are Faculty regulations around when course outlines are due. They are exploring the option of aligning some of the timelines and would like to see the submission of syllabuses sooner, like the beginning of August. Dr. Tighe added that there is a bit of flexibility and noted that she hopes that the community has time this summer for a holiday.

Dr. Farrar noted that at the last Senate meeting he spoke about the provincial budget. Soon after the last meeting the federal budget was announced. The budget includes a projected deficit of \$354.2 billion and \$100 billion in stimulus spending over 3 years. The major themes included investment in childcare, students, research and innovation, and a green recovery. For the University sector this includes investment in Mitacs to create at least 85,000 work-integrated learning placements; funding in support of a Pan-Canadian Genomics Strategy; additional support for Science and Innovation including incremental funding for the Strategic Innovation Fund to support projects in the life sciences, automotive, aerospace, and agriculture sectors; funding for the Pan-Canadian Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy; as well as support for clean technologies and to help accelerate reductions in domestic greenhouse gas emissions reductions by 2030. There were also announcements about increased support for access to intellectual property services, which are welcome. Dr. Farrar explained that Biomufacturing was a major area of focus with \$2.2 billion being provided over seven years towards the development of a vibrant domestic life sciences sector. This support is intended to help build Canada's talent pipeline and research systems, and support the growth of Canadian life sciences firms, and includes funds specifically to help address antimicrobial resistance. A number of elements of this funding are targeted directly at universities and our Public Affairs team is already exploring available avenues of funding, including those available in support of our recently launched Canada's Global Nexus for Pandemics and Biological Threats initiative. Investments have also been made in student aid and training, including the Student Work Placement Program, and increased flexibility in the Canada Student Grant has been announced for an additional two school years. There were also additional investments in mental health supports, particularly those aimed at supporting populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, including health

care workers, front-line workers, youth, seniors, Indigenous people, and racialized members of our community.

As Senators will have seen, the University's Strategic Plan was formally launched last week. Dr. Farrar thanked everyone who provided input and feedback into the institutional framework and priorities. Dr. Farrar noted that McMaster's first ever Teaching and Learning Strategy was also launched last week, and congratulated Dr. Kim Dej, Dr. Lori Goff and the team in the MacPherson Institute. Despite our current global situation, there is much for us to be optimistic about at McMaster; we have a great opportunity to make a positive difference in the world.

Dr. Farrar reported that in the recently announced Times Higher Education impact rankings McMaster was ranked 14th in the world and moved up three places from last year. Although rankings like these are not always of particular value, the focus on the UN Sustainable Development Goals is an important area for McMaster and enables us to concentrate our efforts in areas ranging from ending poverty and hunger, to protecting the planet, and supporting healthy lives and prosperity.

The School of Nursing is currently celebrating its 75th anniversary, coinciding with National Nursing Week, which started on May 10. Dr. Farrar congratulated all current and former members of the School on reaching this milestone and noted that the importance and impact of our Nurses has never been more obvious and thanked them for everything that they do.

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 May 12, 2021 and that item 2 be approved by Consent.

The motion was **carried**.

CONSENT

2 MINUTES of the Meeting of April 14, 2021 – Open Session

Motion:

that the minutes of the Open Session portion of the meeting held on April 14, 2021 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 GRADUATE COUNCIL

Dr. Doug Welch, Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, presented the report.

Dr. Welch explained that there were two items for approval.

1. Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Engineering

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the revisions, for inclusion in the 2021-2022 Graduate Calendar, as recommended by the Faculty of Engineering and set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried**.

2. Curriculum Revisions – Faculty of Humanities

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the revisions, for inclusion in the 2021-2022 Graduate Calendar, as recommended by the Faculty of Humanities and set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried**.

The remainder of items were for information.

7 REPORT FROM UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

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

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

1. Revisions to Certificate and Diploma Programs

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the revisions to the Diploma in Accounting, as set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried.**

2. 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.**

3. Closure of Certificate and Diploma Programs

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the closure of the Health Information Management Diploma and the Health Information Plus Diploma effective May 2021, as set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried.**

4. Discontinuance and Removal of the Certificate of Completion Parchment

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the discontinuance and removal of the Certificate of Completion parchment found on page 15 of the Certificate and Diploma Policy, effective May 12, 2021.

The motion was **carried.**

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

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the curriculum revisions for inclusion in the 2021-2022 Undergraduate Calendar, as set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried**.

The remainder of items were for information.

8 REPORT FROM THE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

Dr. Ishwar Puri, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, presented the report.

Dr. Puri explained that the Faculty of Engineering is proposing amendments to the by-laws. The by-laws were out of date and some new committees have since been added. Revisions also include title changes and changes to existing committees.

It was duly moved and seconded,

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

The motion was **carried**.

9 REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dr. Susan Tighe, Provost and Vice-President, Academic presented the report. Dr. Andy Knights, Acting Associate Vice-President, Research, was in attendance to answer questions.

Dr. Tighe explained that on April 21, 2021 the University Planning Committee approved the following recommendations:

1. Proposal for the establishment of the Centre for Excellence in Protective Equipment and Materials (CEPEM)

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the establishment of the Centre for Excellence in Protective Equipment and Materials (CEPEM), as circulated.

The motion was **carried**.

2. Proposed revisions to the Guidelines for the Governance and Review of Research Institutes, Centres, and Groups

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the revisions to the Guidelines for the Governance and Review of Research Institutes, Centres, and Groups as circulated.

The motion was **carried**.

10' REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS

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

Dr. Cuff explained that on April 26, 2021, the Committee on Appointments approved the following recommendations:

1. SPS A5 Revisions

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the amendments to the SPS A5 policy, as circulated.

The motion was **carried**.

2. ToR Revisions

a. ToR Revisions – John A. Bauer Chair in Surgery

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the amendments to the terms of reference for the John A. Bauer Chair in Surgery, as circulated.

The motion was **carried**.

b. Name Change – W.H. Kwok Chair in Spine Surgery Research

Dr. Cuff noted that the proposed renaming was approved by the donor.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the renaming of the W.H. Kwok Chair in Orthopedic Spinal Surgery Research to the W.H. Kwok Chair in Spine Surgery Research.

The motion was **carried**.

c. ToR Revisions – Associate Deans

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the amendments to the terms of reference for the Associate Dean (Academic), Associate Dean of Graduate Studies (Science), and Associate Dean (Research & External Relations).

The motion was **carried**.

3. Establishment of the Douglas Holder/PHRI Chair in Interventional Cardiology

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the establishment of the Douglas Holder/PHRI Chair in Interventional Cardiology.

The motion was **carried**.

11 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.