
McMaster University**SENATE MINUTES**

VOL. XCV

Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.**Zoom**

PRESENT: Dr. David Farrar, Dr. Ameil Joseph, Dr. Anna Danielova, Dr. Chris Sinding, Dr. Dina Brooks, Dr. Doug Welch, Dr. Gregory Hooks, Dr. Heather Sheardown, Dr. Jeff Weitz, Dr. Jeremiah Hurley, Dr. Judy Fudge, Dr. Juliet Daniel, Dr. Karen Kidd, Dr. Khaled Hassanein, 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. Melinda Gough, Dr. Michael McGillion, Dr. Pamela Swett, Dr. Patrick Bennett, Dr. Paul Faure, Dr. Paul O’Byrne, Dr. Peter Graefe, Dr. Rick Monture, Dr. Stephanie Springgay, Dr. Susan Tighe, Dr. Todd Hoare, Dr. Wael El-Dakhakhni, Mr. Dalue Tang, Mr. Findley McSevney, Mr. Hasan Siddiqui, Mr. Jim McCaughey, Mr. Moustafa Naiem Abdel-Mooty, Ms Amanda Bakke, Ms Haleigh Wallace, Ms Saher Fazilat, Ms Sarrah Lal, Ms Shaden Ahmed, Ms Susan Galloway, Ms Zoe Tsai, Ms Beth Manganelli Staite, Ms Mary Williams, Ms Andrea Thyret-Kidd (University Secretary), Ms Michelle Zheng (Associate University Secretary), Ms Alysha Sless (Governance Coordinator)

OBSERVERS: Ms Andrea Farquhar, Dr. Arig al Shaibah, Ms. Carolyn Brendon, Mr. Denver Della-Vedova, Ms Esme Davies, Dr. Jean Wilson, Ms Karen Richmond, Ms Linda Coslovi, Ms Maya Verma, Ms Melissa Pool, Dr. Peter Mascher, Dr. Sandra Carroll, Mr. Sean Van Koughnett, Ms Vivian Lewis

A. OPEN SESSION**OPENING REMARKS**

Dr. Farrar welcomed everyone to the meeting and to the new academic year. Dr. Farrar thanked everyone for their support and commitment as we continue to work through all the issues related to a gradual return to campus and increased activity, while satisfying the ongoing Public Health requirements, vaccine mandate, and working to keep our community safe.

Dr. Farrar welcomed the following new Senators:

- *Ms Saher Fazilat, Vice-President (Operations and Finance)*
- *Dr. Khaled Hassanein, Dean, Mr. Tyler Woo, Faculty of Business*
- *Dr. Heather Sheardown, Acting Dean, Faculty of Engineering*
- *Ms Susan Galloway, Ms Sarrah Lal, Board Representatives*
- *Dr. Sue McCracken, Faculty of Business*

- *Dr. Wael El-Dakhakhni, Mr. Moustafa Naiem Abdel-Mooty, Faculty of Engineering*
- *Dr. Rick Monture, Dr. Stephanie Springgay, Ms Shaden Ahmed, Faculty of Humanities*
- *Dr. Gregory Hooks, Dr. Chris Sinding, Mr. Findley McSevney, Faculty of Social Sciences*
- *Dr. Paul Faure, Dr. Karen Kidd, Mr. Hasan Siddiqui, Faculty of Science*
- *Dr. Michael McGillion, Ms Zoe Tsai, Faculty of Health Sciences*

Members were informed of the Zoom protocols and were advised not to type any substantive comments into the chat window since they will not be recorded in the minutes.

Dr. Farrar explained that as Senators will have seen, a great deal of information has been provided regarding the return to campus, the health and safety guidelines, upgraded ventilation systems, vaccination mandate, and the MacCheck digital tool, along with lots of FAQs for students, instructors, employees, and supervisors. Events have been playing out quickly with regard to the provincial government and Public Health requirements. A big team, led by the Provost's Office and including academic and non-academic leadership in areas ranging from Facilities, HR, Faculty Offices, Residences, Student Affairs, to UTS and Communications, has been working around the clock to get all the arrangements in place and ensure that as many students, faculty, and staff as possible are able to return to campus safely and with confidence. Dr. Farrar noted that the gradual return to campus will continue throughout the Fall term, and they will continue to monitor Public Health guidance, case numbers and provincial requirements as matters evolve.

Dr. Farrar thanked all the faculty and staff who have made such huge efforts throughout the pandemic and to support the return to campus and added that while we are still not yet "back to normal" he is optimistic about the Fall term and about all that we can achieve together.

Dr. Tighe thanked individuals who have contributed to the Back to Mac initiative. Planning started in February and there has not been a lot of direct guidance from the government in the last couple of months. Dr. Tighe acknowledged the McMaster experts across campus who have been helping. Yesterday on campus students were wearing masks and following guidelines. They are confident they have a team in place to make sure campus is safe and that we get back to our core business which is students and delivering high quality education. Dr. Tighe encouraged everyone to check the Back to Mac website regularly and to direct questions to their Chair or Supervisor.

A member noted that part-time adult learning is included in the vaccine mandate and these students are studying exclusively online and will never come to campus. The member noted that they think students will not continue if we cannot figure out a way to remove them from the mandate. Dr. Tighe noted that they will get back with a response and added that if individuals are dealing with situations they should start with their Chair or Supervisor.

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 September 8, 2021 and that items 2 through 4 be approved or received by Consent.

The motion was **carried**.

CONSENT

2 MINUTES of the Meeting of June 9, 2021 – Open Session

Motion:

that the minutes of the Open Session portion of the meeting held on June 9, 2021 be approved as circulated.

Approved by Consent.

3 COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Senate Primer and Confidentiality
- b. Senate Meeting Schedule for 2021-2022
- c. Senate Membership List for 2021-2022
- d. Senate Committee List for 2021-2022

Received by Consent.

4 REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 1. Actions Taken on Behalf of Senate: Terms of Reference
 - a. Associate Dean (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Indigeneity)
 - b. Establishment of the Schroeder Chair in Allergy and Immunology Research

Received by Consent.

REGULAR

5 BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

6 ENQUIRIES

There were no enquiries.

7 COMMUNICATIONS

Preliminary Enrolment Figures

Mr. Sean Van Koughnett, Associate Vice-President (Students & Learning) and Dean of Students, and Dr. Doug Welch, Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, provided a verbal report on the preliminary undergraduate and graduate enrolment figures. Senate will be provided with final numbers when these are available, usually at the December meeting.

Mr. Van Koughnett explained that it has been a strong year in terms of admissions. Last year they strived to reach the target and exceeded it, this year they are 5% over the target. The focus was on international admissions which are up over 14% compared to last year. The target was 6,100 and at this point there are 6,500 registrants. Mr. Van Koughnett noted that being within a few hundred of the target is quite an accomplishment.

Dr. Welch explained that last year there were challenges with international students arriving and that there are similar challenges this year but with more success. Last year's enrolment was 5,154 students and this year there are 5,430.

8 REPORT FROM GRADUATE COUNCIL

This item was for information.

9 REPORT FROM UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

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

Dr. Dej explained that on September 7, 2021, the Undergraduate Council Executive Committee approved the Undergraduate Expectations for McMaster Vaccination Policy. The policy outlines the expectations for undergraduate students to provide proof of vaccination or an exemption. Students are expected to upload vaccinations and complete the daily MacCheck. Students who are registered in in-person classes and have uploaded their vaccination are good to go. Dr. Dej explained that they will confirm that unvaccinated students are expected to be on campus before unenrolling them from classes with an in-person component. Students will be contacted before being unenrolled and will receive a tuition refund. Students are encouraged to contact the Registrar's Office regarding OSAP. If students are enrolled in virtual or online courses they will be able to continue in them. Dr. Dej added that academic counselling is available.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the establishment of the Undergraduate Expectations for McMaster Vaccination Policy for inclusion in the General Academic Regulations in the Undergraduate Calendar 2021-2022, effective September 8, 2021.

A member questioned how clause 6 will be enforced. Dr. Dej explained that there are many entrances on campus, and they cannot realistically screen students coming onto campus. They can however determine if they are using facilities such as the libraries and the gym. It is not easy to enforce, but if a student is identified they will be sanctioned. The member asked if it is their responsibility, as a professor, to check the status of students. Dr. Dej advised that it is the University's responsibility to enforce. They are establishing best practices where everyone shows their green checkmarks and that students are expected to show this, and professors can remind them. It is not the job of professors to go across campus and verify.

A question was asked regarding exemptions and whether personal or religious reasons were included. Dr. Dej advised that there is an option, and it will be reviewed.

A member added that faculty and staff are not entitled to know whether a student is vaccinated, only whether they have a green checkmark. No one is deputized to check statuses. Dr. Dej noted that they are not certain what percentage of students have completed the form but there have been 21,000 submissions. Mr. Van Koughnett confirmed that there have been 19,000 vaccine uploads and that 14,000 students used the daily check in.

A member noted that they are grateful for the thoughtfulness but questioned if between October 19 and the beginning of January there is a way to work with people who are not vaccinated or who sought exemptions that were not approved. The member asked if there are ways that the Social Sciences faculty could be involved. Dr. Dej explained that they need to have a policy because they need a tool to enforce. The primary job is supporting students and recognizing different pathways.

Dr. Tighe thanked Dr. Dej and added that the goal is to be empathetic and compassionate and to support students, faculty, and staff. They want to understand the individual circumstances to work with them. Dr. Tighe added that they would welcome the Social Sciences faculty to provide knowledge. People are looking to McMaster for advice because of our expertise. We want to lead in how we are dealing with these situations and how we prepare these policies and implement them in a way that is empathetic.

A member asked if a department or Faculty can force teaching assistants to be in person. The member noted that some teaching assistants have people at home who are high risk and are not comfortable being around other people. Dr. Dej advised that those conversations have been occurring since April and they have been empathetic and understanding. Some courses are designed in person and they cannot change that they are in person. Dr. Tighe added that if people bring forward concerns, they will address them and look at how they can be assisted. It is done on a case-by-case basis.

A member suggested having something in between so that it does not feel like an ultimatum and noted that barriers to vaccination are real.

A member added that vaccines will be available for students in the Student Wellness Centre and a pop-up clinic in partnership with Hamilton Public Health for all community members on campus September 14.

Dr. Tighe explained that they will ensure communications are being constructed in a way that will enable those in a situation to come forward. When an unvaccinated student comes forward with a request for accommodation, the first thing that occurs is they will go for academic advising. There will be a discussion to get a better understanding of the situation.

A member explained that the intent is to be able to execute on the spirit of what was stated. They can work out procedures and stress test them. Students are not necessarily going to read the policy so communications will be critical.

A member asked if they are comfortable with the composition of who will grant exemptions. Dr. Farrar advised that there is a trained group looking at this within Human Resources. Dr. Tighe added that each case that gets approved has to be approved by a Vice-President. There has been a lot of discussion around exemptions and they are seeking advice and Human Rights is advising.

The motion was **carried**.

Dr. Farrar thanked Dr. Dej and Dr. Tighe and acknowledged the hard work and complexity.

10 REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Todd Hoare, Chair of the Committee on Appointments, presented the report.

Dr. Hoare explained that on August 26, 2021, the Committee on Appointments approved the following recommendations:

1. Establishment of Assistant Dean, Faculty Development

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the establishment of the Assistant Dean, Faculty Development.

The motion was **carried**.

2. Establishment of Associate Dean, Equity & Inclusion

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the establishment of the Associate Dean, Equity & Inclusion.

The motion was **carried.**

11 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.