

McMaster University

SENATE MINUTES

VOL. CII

Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 3:30 p.m.

Zoom

PRESENT: Ms Amanda Bakke, Ms Bernadette Corpuz, Ms Beth Manganelli Staite, Dr. Chandrima Chakraborty, Dr. Chris Sinding, Dr. David Farrar, Dr. Doug Welch, Mr. Findley McSevney, Dr. Gregory Hooks, Ms Haleigh Wallace, Mr. Hasan Siddiqui, Dr. Heather Sheardown, Dr. James Gillett, Dr. Jeff Weitz, Mr. Jim McCaughey, Dr. Judy Fudge, Dr. Juliet Daniel, Dr. Karen Kidd, Mr. Keegan Johnson, Dr. Khaled Hassanein, Dr. Kim Dej, Dr. Kim Jones, Dr. Mark Walton, Dr. Martin Horn, Dr. Matthew Miller, Dr. Maureen MacDonald, Dr. Melinda Gough, Dr. Michael McGillion, Mr. Moustafa Naiem Abdel-Mooty, Dr. Nikolai Penner, Dr. Patrick Bennett, Dr. Paul Faure, Dr. Paul O'Byrne, Dr. Peter Graefe, Dr. Phil Zylla, Dr. Rick Monture, Ms Saher Fazilat, Ms Sarrah Lal, Ms Shaden Ahmed, Dr. Sherman Cheung, Dr. Stephanie Springgay, Dr. Sue McCracken, Ms Susan Galloway, Dr. Susan Reid, Dr. Susan Tighe, Dr. Todd Hoare, Dr. Wael El-Dakhakhni, Ms Zoe Tsai, Ms Andrea Thyret-Kidd (University Secretary), Ms Christine Richard (Associate University Secretary), Ms Alysha Sless (Governance Coordinator)

OBSERVERS: Dr. Adrienne Xavier, Ms Andrea Farquhar, Dr. Arig al Shaibah, Ms Carolyn Brendon, Ms Esme Davies, Dr. Jean Wilson, Dr. Karen Richmond, Dr. Nicholas Kevlahan, Dr. Peter Mascher, Dr. Sandra Carroll, Mr. Sean Van Koughnett, Dr. Susan Denburg, Ms Vivian Lewis

REGRETS: Dr. Dina Brooks, Dr. Jeremiah Hurley, Dr. Lia Bronsard, Dr. Lorraine Carter, Dr. Karen Mossman, Ms Mary Williams, Dr. Pamela Swett

INVITED/GUESTS: Ms Pilar Michaud, Dr. Emma Apatu

A. OPEN SESSION

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Farrar welcomed members to the meeting and thanked everyone for their support with the gradual return to campus and in-person activities, and for all their work to keep our campus safe and support one another.

As of May 1, 2022, the University will pause its vaccine policy for the spring and summer terms. Even though the policy is paused, members of our community are encouraged to make sure they are fully vaccinated, including booster shots, and to ensure that their MacCheck vaccination status is up to date. Given the current level of infection rates and the latest data available from the

provincial Science table, the University will retain the masking requirement until the end of May. Surgical masks will continue to be available on campus to ensure that everyone has access to masks and is able to play their part in keeping others safe. The Daily MacCheck will no longer be required but anyone experiencing COVID symptoms should not come to campus or a McMaster facility. Dr. Farrar advised that they will continue to monitor public health advice and government requirements, and work with McMaster experts, and will be ready to make changes as needed.

Dr. Farrar noted that it has not been easy and the past two years of the pandemic continue to impact the health, well-being, and mental health of many in our community. Dr. Farrar encouraged anyone who needs assistance to reach out to the support services McMaster offers. It is important that as a community we continue to support one another, exercise compassion and understanding, and try to remain as flexible as possible.

Dr. Tighe added that they will continue to monitor what is happening and will continue to work closely with Public Health. The emphasis is to ensure a successful exam period and to transition into the spring/summer term in a way that is safe.

Dr. Farrar advised that the federal budget was released last week and it represents a clear directional shift away from the pandemic to a more normalized fiscal stance.

The **key pillars** of the budget were:

1. Housing and Affordability;
2. Innovation and Growth;
3. Environment; and,
4. Defense.

It was a disappointing Budget for fundamental research and there was also a lack of investment broadly in students, for Indigenous education, and for EDI initiatives. The government has been clear that they regarded the 2021 Budget as the “science budget”, so although we still hoped for more research support from the 2022 Budget we were not caught completely off guard.

Dr. Farrar advised that there were some positive signs for our sector:

- The government announced funding for Canada Excellence Research Chairs, as well as for research security and IP initiatives.
- The creation of an innovation and investment strategy was also announced, as well as the Canadian Innovation Investment Agency, which is intended to increase R&D within Canada.
- While there was no concrete funding commitment for Canada Research Chairs, there was a commitment to support for this program once a review has been completed. We are watching this closely and have been encouraged to engage with ISED as the review moves forward.
- There was no inflationary increase for the Granting Councils in this budget, but there are some targeted funds that will flow through them, including funding for CIHR and for research security.

- In addition, a focus on improving visa processing timelines was included in the Budget. This is an area that universities have advocated strongly for, so this is good news.

Dr. Farrar informed members that there was significant investment in areas that represent priorities for McMaster. These include investments in nuclear science (SMR's) and in the Public Health Agency of Canada. McMaster's Government Relations team is exploring opportunities in both of these areas for our researchers.

The last Budget contained significant investments in a number of big science initiatives, and there is still a lot of work to do to bring these initiatives to life. These include CFREF, the genomics strategy, AI strategy, and biomanufacturing strategy. Dr. Farrar noted that they will continue to monitor all of these to ensure that McMaster is well positioned for success.

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 April 13, 2022 and that item 2 be approved by Consent.

The motion was **carried**.

CONSENT

2 MINUTES of the Meeting of March 9, 2022 – Open Session

Motion:

that the minutes of the Open Session portion of the meeting held on March 9, 2022 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. Equity and Inclusion Office Annual Report**

Dr. Arig al Shaibah, Associate Vice-President, Equity and Inclusion, presented the report. Ms Pilar Michaud, Director, Human Rights and Dispute Resolution was in attendance to answer questions.

Dr. al Shaibah explained that they are continually working to improve the presentation of the report. The report includes four years of data and is used for continuous improvement. Dr. al Shaibah noted that the number of disclosures and consultations for discrimination, harassment and sexual violence have gone down and that they believe it coincides with the community working remotely. September 2020 – April 2021 saw a drop across all five intake offices and new complaints are at a steady state over the last three years. Dr. al Shaibah added that they are trying to reduce the length of the investigation period and are continuing to work across intake offices to look at processes.

In response to a question regarding the typical length of an investigation, Dr. al Shaibah explained that a few institutions are aiming at a 90-day length and that they want to look and see if McMaster can get somewhere between 90 and 180 days, but that they want to keep it below six months.

A question was asked regarding consults being created by new conditions of teaching and learning and whether there will be a need for more resources in this area. Dr. al Shaibah explained that consults are increasing, and they are creating a culture for disclosure and consultation. They have to look at bandwidth and capacity in the offices and how they are working with capacity across the institution.

b. COU Academic Colleagues Report

This item was for information.

6 REPORT FROM GRADUATE COUNCIL

This item was for information.

7 REPORT FROM THE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

Dr. Heather Sheardown, Acting Dean of Engineering, presented the report. Dr. Sheardown explained that the Faculty of Engineering is proposing an amendment to the Faculty of Engineering By-Laws to add an Instructor Development and Evaluation Committee. Departments have been doing instructor evaluations on an ad hoc basis and the amendment will create a committee to provide feedback on a regular basis and work with instructors to enhance teaching methods.

It was duly moved and seconded,

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

In response to a question, Dr. Sheardown confirmed that the individual peer teaching will be incorporated into the new committee.

The motion was **carried**.

8 REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dr. Susan Tighe, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), presented the report. At its meeting on March 23, 2022, the University Planning Committee approved the following recommendations and now recommends them to Senate for approval:

1. Proposal for the Digital Society Lab Centre

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the establishment of the Digital Society Lab Centre.

The motion was **carried**.

2. Proposal for a Graduate Diploma in Community and Public Health

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the establishment of the Graduate Diploma in Community and Public Health.

The motion was **carried**.

3. Closures of McMaster Research Centres and Institutes

Dr. Tighe explained that Dr. Mossman and her team are completing a review and cleanup of a number of research centers, and that the closures of these centres and institutes is a result of inactivity for a number of years.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the termination of the following centres and institutes, effective April 21, 2022:

1. CPA/DeGroot Centre for the Promotion of Accounting Education and Research

2. Centre for Advanced Polymer Process & Design
3. Computing and Infrastructure Research Centre
4. McMaster Institute of Automotive Research and Technology
5. McMaster Centre for Pulp & Paper Research
6. McMaster Institute for Surgical Invention, Innovation and Education
7. Research Institute for Quantitative Studies in Economics & Population

The motion was **carried**.

4. Report from Undergraduate Council

- a. Establishment of New Certificate & Diploma Programs
 - a. Diploma in Indigenous Language Revitalization
 - b. Diploma in Business Administration with a Concentration in Data Analytics
 - c. Certificate of Professional Learning in Risk Management
 - d. Certificate of Professional Learning in Creative, Critical and Design Thinking
 - e. Certificate of Professional Learning in Foundations in Workplace Intercultural Competency & Communication

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the establishment of the Diploma in Indigenous Language Revitalization, and the Diploma in Business Administration with a Concentration In Data Analytics, as set out in the attached.

In response to a question, Dr. Dej explained that the Business Administration diploma was proposed by McMaster Continuing Education in support with the Faculty of Business.

The motion was **carried**.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the establishment of three Certificates of Professional Learning in Risk Management, in Creative, Critical and Design Thinking, and in Foundations in Workplace Intercultural Competency and Communication, as set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried**.

- b. Revisions to Certificate and Diploma Programs
 - a. Revisions to the Business Administration Program (BUS)

This item was for information.

9 REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS

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

On March 21, 2022, the Committee on Appointments approved revisions to the Faculty Grievance Policy, specifically Section 1 of Appendix A – Grievance Review Panel Membership. The Committee on Appointments approved the following recommendation and now recommends it to Senate for approval:

1. Faculty Grievance Policy Revisions

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the proposed revisions to the Faculty Grievance Policy, as circulated.

The motion was **carried**.
(1 abstention)

10 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.