

McMaster University

SENATE MINUTES

VOL. XCIX

Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 3:30 p.m.

Zoom

PRESENT: Dr. David Farrar, Dr. Anna Danielova, Dr. Chandrima Chakraborty, Dr. Chris Sinding, Dr. Dina Brooks, Dr. Doug Welch, Dr. Gregory Hooks, Dr. Heather Sheardown, Dr. Jeremiah Hurley, Dr. Judy Fudge, Dr. Juliet Daniel, Dr. Karen Kidd, Dr. Kim Dej, Dr. Kim Jones, Dr. Laura Parker, Dr. Lia Bronsard, Dr. Lorraine Carter, Dr. Maikel Rheinstadter, Dr. Mark Walton, Dr. Maureen MacDonald, Dr. Melinda Gough, Dr. Michael McGillion, Dr. Nikolai Penner, Dr. Pamela Swett, Dr. Patrick Bennett, Dr. Paul Faure, Dr. Paul O’Byrne, Dr. Peter Graefe, Dr. Rick Monture, Dr. Stephanie Springgay, Dr. Sherman Cheung, Dr. Sue McCracken, Dr. Susan Tighe, Dr. Todd Hoare, Dr. Wael El-Dakhakhni, Dr. Susan Reid, Ms Saher Fazilat, Ms Bernadette Corpuz, Mr. Findley McSevney, Ms Haleigh Wallace, Ms Shaden Ahmed, Ms Susan Galloway, Ms Zoe Tsai, Ms Mary Williams, Mr. Jim McCaughey, Mr. Keegan Johnson, Ms Beth Manganelli Staite, Mr. Moustafa Naiem Abdel-Mooty, Ms Nicole Areias, Mr. Hasan Siddiqui, Mr. Tyler Woo, 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 Caroline Seiler, Mr. Denver Della-Vedova, Ms Carolyn Brendon, Ms Esme Davies, Dr. Jean Wilson, Dr. Nicholas Kevlahan, Ms Maya Verma, Ms Karen Richmond, Ms Melissa Pool, Dr. Peter Mascher, Dr. Sandra Carroll, Mr. Sean Van Koughnett, Ms Vivian Lewis

INVITED/GUESTS: Dr. David Shore, Ms Amy Gullage, Ms Monique Beech, Dr. Neil Mclaughlin, Mr. Owen Saull

A. OPEN SESSION

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Farrar welcomed everyone to the meeting and offered best wishes for the coming year. Members were reminded of the Zoom meeting protocols.

Dr. Farrar explained that last week the University released an update for the winter term planning. This update was based on evolving guidance from the province and our ongoing commitment to the health, safety, and well-being of our university community. As noted in the announcement, the revised plan allows for a staged return to in-person learning. Beginning January 17 – Undergraduate labs, studios, clinical and other high priority hands-on learning and experiential activities will be in person, with limited exceptions. Beginning January 31 – All

level-one undergraduate courses will be in person. All graduate courses offered at the Ron Joyce Centre will also begin on January 31. Beginning February 7 – All in-person classes begin for all students (undergraduate and graduate). Dr. Farrar advised that a more detailed resource guide has now been released: <https://covid19.mcmaster.ca/your-back-to-mac-resource-guide-for-the-winter-semester/>, which provides detailed information for students, faculty and staff on a range of logistical and practical issues relating to the plans. This includes plans for the residences, recreational facilities, food and dining options, library hours, as well as information about the range of measures being taken to maintain health, safety, and well-being throughout the gradual return to campus. In addition to the University's vaccination mandate, the University is continuing to review and enhance the ventilation of buildings, follow current Public Health requirements for masks (which are required in all indoor spaces), and require the completion of the MacCheck daily screening tool for all community members accessing campus.

Dr. Farrar advised that plans will continue to evolve and develop over the coming weeks and they will continue to communicate and provide as much information as possible. The University leadership recognizes that there will be challenges for our community at home and on campus over the next few weeks as the pandemic continues and more people are required to isolate, manage their own health, and care for family. Dr. Farrar added that they are committed to being as flexible as possible as our community navigates through this latest phase of COVID.

Dr. Tighe noted that they are following Public Health guidelines and guidance carefully and acknowledged that our internal experts have been helpful in providing guidance and advice. If individuals have questions, they are encouraged to visit the covid19.mcmaster.ca website which includes updates and frequently asked questions.

A member asked how safe it is to return to campus next week given the increasing COVID numbers, and why the University is not recommending higher quality masks or providing them to workers on campus. Dr. Tighe explained that the plans for next week have been carefully prepared and instructors were provided with guidance and advice. Each Faculty, department and course has a plan and has determined who needs to be on campus and how to get them on campus safely. Regarding cloth masks, there have been a lot of discussions and input from colleagues in Public Health and they are deemed appropriate for use. Dr. Tighe noted that there have been upgrades to the ventilation systems and there is a mandated vaccination policy in place which is a factor in our ability to return to campus and have cloth masks in place. The N95 masks are being used in high-risk areas but are not required in other areas. The member noted that many teaching assistants have labs of up to 50 students, there is nervousness amongst students, and they are asking about higher quality masks. Dr. Tighe offered to provide more speaking points offline.

A member asked how to monitor an outbreak for students in health. Dr. O'Byrne explained that it is a challenge facing health care professionals at all levels. It is increasingly difficult to get precise testing. In the health care environment within clinical training opportunities, engagement of health care professional students, it is possible to get tested if symptomatic. If individuals develop symptoms, without testing, assume positive and isolate. The University is getting some rapid tests, but they are limited. There have been discussions around higher risk environments

and having testing available to individuals directly engaged in face-to-face activities with patients.

A member noted that many students may want a recording of classes and asked if professors will be able to try the classroom recording in advance of the February 7 return date. Dr. Tighe advised that the plan is to be 100% in person as of February 7. Some classrooms have been upgraded with Echo360 which is an easy recording process and lectures can be uploaded to Avenue to Learn. Dr. Dej added that most large classrooms have Echo360 embedded. Prior to teaching, instructors should send an email indicating that they would like their class recorded. For the classrooms that do not have Echo360, they are providing an update on how to record the class on a laptop. Dr. Dej encouraged instructors to go into their classrooms ahead of time to familiarize themselves with the tools.

A question was asked regarding hybrid options for students who might need to isolate. Dr. Dej explained that with Echo360 students are able to stream the lecture live. The University has also invested in the Meeting Owl camera and microphone which allows for more interaction with students in the classroom. It works best for smaller classrooms and has been used by Social Sciences in their smaller seminars. It is a plug and play tool which is easy to use. A member noted that once tutorials started to be recorded last term, students stopped coming to class. The member noted concern over students not showing up to class because of the convenience of online classes and turning into an online university. Dr. Tighe explained that one of the discussion points has been around the value of learning in person and being in person. It is important to have people on campus and have those experiences.

A member asked if it will be possible for Teaching Assistants or graduate students to get rapid tests. Dr. O'Byrne explained that the rapid tests have not arrived yet and once they are available, they will look at how they will be made available and in what circumstances. Dr. Tighe added that they are determining the best use for the tests. A secondary order was placed in hopes of having enough tests on campus.

Dr. Tighe explained that at the previous Senate meeting the selection committee for Vice-Provost and Deputy Provost were approved. A call for applications will go out by the end of the week and more information will be available on the Daily News.

Dr. Farrar acknowledged that it is now two years since the downing of Flight PS752, which took off from Tehran on January 8, 2020. As a community we remember that 176 lives were cut short — including two McMaster engineering graduate students and a former postdoctoral fellow in the Faculty of Health Sciences. We continue to grieve and remember those whom we so tragically lost.

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.

A member noted that the number of undergraduate students in the previous minutes was incorrect. The minutes will be updated to reflect the correct number.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the Open Session agenda for the meeting of January 12, 2022 and that item 2 be approved by Consent.

The motion was **carried**.

CONSENT

2 MINUTES of the Meeting of January 12, 2022 – Open Session

Motion:

that the minutes of the Open Session portion of the meeting held on January 12, 2022 be approved as amended.

Approved by Consent.

REGULAR

3 BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

4 ENQUIRIES

A member informed Senators of a matter that was brought to the attention of MUFA members at the last Faculty Association Meeting. MUFA members were advised about a revision made to the Discrimination and Harassment Policy in 2019 that occurred following MUFA's review of the revised draft policy. The specific change was the deletion of the words "freedom of expression". This change was not visible to Senators since a track change version of the Discrimination and Harassment Policy was not provided and the edit was not highlighted in the covering memo provided to Senate. At the same Senate meeting this wording was also removed from the Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities, but in that case was visible in a track change version of the document provided to Senators. The member expressed concern over policy changes that appear to remove or limit freedom of expression.

Dr. Kevlahan, MUFA President, outlined MUFA's concerns and questions about this last-minute wording adjustment and asked why this was not highlighted to Senate at the December 11, 2019 meeting.

Dr. Farrar commented that to respond to this enquiry the relevant records from 2019 would need to be consulted. Dr. Farrar asked Ms. Thyret-Kidd, University Secretary, to review the situation and report back on the matter at the February Senate meeting.

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 on December 7, 2021 Graduate Council approved the revisions to the Policy on Academic Program Development and Review which will be discussed in the report from Undergraduate Council, item #7.3. At the same meeting, Graduate Council approved the following recommendation:

1. Faculty of Engineering – Change in Graduate Curriculum

Changes include the addition of an accelerated option for the M.A.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering and the addition of a Biomanufacturing Stream for the Master of Engineering in Manufacturing Engineering.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the proposed program revisions for inclusion in the 2022-2023 Graduate Calendar, as recommended by Graduate Council.

The motion was **carried**.

The remainder of items were for information.

2. Faculty of Business - Course Requirements

3. Faculty of Engineering - Calendar Copy Corrections

4. Faculty of Health Sciences - Calendar Copy Changes

7 UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

Dr. Kim Dej, Acting Vice-Provost, Faculty, presented the report. Dr. Dej explained that on December 7, 2021 Undergraduate Council approved the following recommendations:

1. Establishment of New Certificate and Diploma Programs

The certificate is a concurrent certificate in Health Humanities, and Social Sciences. It provides an opportunity to develop an academic focus in this area. Students will complete 18 units of coursework offered through the Faculties of Health Sciences, Humanities, Social Sciences and the Arts and Science program.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the creation of the Health Humanities & Social Science Concurrent Certificate, as set out in the attached.

A member asked if the certificate is an addition to a program or if it is replacing some courses. Dr. Dej explained that it is concurrent and sits with a core program. There are some provisions around overlap or intersection.

The motion was **carried**.

2. Revisions to the Policy on Academic Program Development and Review

Dr. Dej explained that in February, the province-wide framework was updated. In response, the proposed revisions to the policy are in line with the updates. Dr. Dej thanked Ms Amy Gullage for leading the scripting of changes.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the revisions to the Policy on Academic Program Development and Review, as set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried**.

The remainder of items were for information.

3. Terms of Award

a. New Awards

b. New Bursaries

c. Changes to Award Terms

4. 2020-2021 Award Recipients Report

5. 2020-2021 Award Disbursement Summary

6. 2021 Major University and External Awards Selection Committee

7. New Certificate of Attendance Programs

8 AMENDMENTS TO THE SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY

Dr. Arig al Shaibah, Associate Vice-President, Equity and Inclusion, presented the report. Dr. al Shaibah explained that the changes were mandated by the government to be implemented by March 1, 2022. Legal Council reviewed the directive and the two required clauses were incorporated in the commitment.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the

proposed revisions to the Sexual Violence Policy, effective February 7, 2022.

A member noted that the Ontario regulation provides specific wording, and the proposed revision is not using the wording from the province. Specifically, in section 22 of the regulation, the word 'irrelevant' is omitted from the revised policy. Dr. al Shaibah advised that her version of the document contains the word 'irrelevant'. Dr. al Shaibah advised that her version had the verbatim language, and she is not certain why the language would be different.

It was suggested to amend the policy to incorporate the regulatory language. Ms Thyret-Kidd suggested taking the item back for review and forwarding it to the Senate Executive Committee for approval to meet the requirement of March 1, 2022. The policy will return to Senate for information.

The motion was **tabled**.

9 OTHER BUSINESS

I know of no other business.