

McMaster University

SENATE MINUTES

VOL. CIV

Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at 3:30 p.m.

Zoom

PRESENT: Dr. Anna Danielova, Ms Beth Manganelli Staite, Dr. Chris Sinding, Dr. David Farrar, Ms Debbie Martin, Dr. Dina Brooks, Dr. Doug Welch, Mr. Findley McSevney, Ms Haleigh Wallace, Mr. Hasan Siddiqui, Dr. Heather Sheardown, Dr. Jeremiah Hurley, Mr. Jim McCaughey, Dr. Judy Fudge, Dr. Juliet Daniel, Dr. Karen Kidd, Dr. Khaled Hassanein, Dr. Kim Dej, Dr. Kim Jones, Dr. Laura Parker, Dr. Lia Bronsard, Dr. Lorraine Carter, Dr. Martin Horn, Dr. Maureen MacDonald, Dr. Melinda Gough, Dr. Michael McGillion, Dr. Patrick Bennett, Dr. Paul Faure, Dr. Paul O’Byrne, Dr. Peter Graefe, Dr. Rick Monture, Ms Shaden Ahmed, Dr. Sherman Cheung, Dr. Stephanie Springgay, Dr. Sue McCracken, Ms Susan Galloway, Dr. Susan Tighe, Dr. Todd Hoare, Dr. Wael El-Dakhkhni, Ms Andrea Thyret-Kidd (University Secretary), Ms Christine Richard (Associate University Secretary), Ms Alysha Sless (Assistant University Secretary)

OBSERVERS: Ms Andrea Farquhar, Dr. Arig al Shaibah, Ms Esme Davies, Dr. Karen Richmond, Ms Melissa Pool, Dr. Nicholas Kevlahan, Dr. Peter Mascher, Dr. Sandra Carroll, Mr. Sean Van Koughnett, Dr. Susan Denburg, Ms Vivian Lewis

REGRETS: Dr. Jeff Weitz, Dr. Nikolai Penner, Dr. Karen Mossman, Ms Saher Fazilat, Dr. Pamela Swett,

INVITED/GUESTS: Ms Faith Ogunkoya, Dr. John Preston, Mr. Iain Clarkson, Ms Deidre (Dee) Henne, Ms Lou Mitton, Mr. Tim Cameron, Ms Michelle Trelaven

A. OPEN SESSION

Dr. Farrar welcomed members to the final senate meeting of the 2021-22 academic year and noted that it has been a challenging year for all members of our community, but we have achieved a great deal together despite the difficulties and uncertainty we have faced. It is also the end of the first year of the new strategic plan, which lays out five key priorities for our collective focus: Inclusive Excellence; Teaching and Learning; Research and Scholarship; Engaging Communities; and Operational Excellence.

Dr. Farrar noted that under the Inclusive Excellence heading he is particularly pleased with the success of our initiative to hire a cohort of Black faculty. McMaster was able to attract more than 20 outstanding new faculty members across all six Faculties and made major progress implementing the recommendations from the task force which reviewed the experiences of Black

student-athletes. Several new Black student support staff and athletic staff have been hired, the Black Student Success Centre was launched, and mentorship programs for Black students began. Dr. Farrar added that they have been successful in raising funds for several scholarships to support not only Black students, but also Indigenous students, and students from other racialized communities.

In the Teaching and Learning area, thanks to the stellar efforts of faculty across the campus, supported by the MacPherson Institute, McMaster has been able to develop engaging and effective means of teaching and assessment. The strong foundation created in the virtual environment served as the scaffolding as we returned to in-person and hybrid courses during the winter term. Dr. Farrar anticipated that we will be able to capture some of the best aspects of online learning as we move out of the pandemic, using what we have learned to deepen and enrich the learning environment for students. Several new initiatives have come out of the new Teaching and Learning strategy, and the MacPherson Institute is about to launch a new Digital Learning Strategy.

Under Research and Scholarship, McMaster researchers continue to work on a wide variety of areas of global significance, including pandemic preparedness, vaccine development, cancer health care, electrified vehicles, small modular reactors, medical isotopes, the ethics of global philanthropy, and issues associated with aging, to name a few. Our health care researchers have attracted major donor support for research in global health, asthma, entrepreneurship, and spinal surgery. Dr. Farrar noted that he is pleased with the launch of the McMaster Seed Fund earlier this year, which represents a big advance in our support of commercialization and entrepreneurial activities.

McMaster has been active in its work with Local, National, Indigenous, and Global Communities. The Office of Community Engagement has worked throughout the pandemic to develop and maintain meaningful partnerships with local community partners, and we have also been able to extend our network of global research partnerships and opportunities for global engagement for our students. The launch of the Indigenous Education and Research Strategy, developed under the leadership of the Indigenous Education Council, was a major step forward this year. The formation of Indigenous Studies as a Department, which will be the home of the current undergraduate program and the future home for graduate studies and research, was also recently approved.

McMaster has also made significant progress in advancing Operational Excellence. This encompasses the enhancement of digital technologies to support hybrid teaching and learning, our work to simplify and streamline HR processes and forms, and our focus on ensuring that our physical campus environment is accessible and sustainable. The launch of our campus-wide Sustainability Strategy signals our collective commitment to this important area. Dr. Farrar explained that we also continue to be highly ranked, nationally and globally, on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which is a major area of focus and anticipates that our performance will improve further as we work on the development of our new Campus Master Plan, which has sustainability at its core. Work to advance all five key areas of the strategic plan will continue next year and Dr. Farrar noted his appreciation for all the efforts made in Faculties,

Departments, and Units across the University to develop and advance all these critically important initiatives over the last year.

Senators were reminded of the outcome of the provincial election held on June 2, 2022, which saw the Conservatives, led by Premier Doug Ford, re-elected with a strengthened majority. The NDP forms the official opposition and there were very few changes in the ridings in Hamilton and region, although Hamilton East – Stoney Creek switched from NDP to Conservative. Even though the Conservatives have been re-elected, there will be a new Cabinet appointed and a transition period. McMaster's Government Relations team will continue to monitor developments, build relationships, and promote McMaster and the needs of the higher education sector to the provincial government over the coming weeks.

Dr. Farrar informed Senators that next week is Convocation week. McMaster held a very successful series of in-person legacy ceremonies for students from the classes of 2020 and 2021 during May, along with the regular Health Sciences and Nursing convocation ceremonies. Dr. Farrar thanked the Registrar's Office for the extraordinary amount of work to prepare for all the events and thanked all the faculty and staff who have supported our students in completing their degrees and making convocation a memorable time.

Dr. Farrar thanked the following retiring and resigning Senators:

- Faculty of Business: *Dr. Sherman Cheung, Dr. Anna Danielova, Ms Alyaa Abdelhalim*
- Faculty of Engineering: *Dr. Kim Jones, Mr. Dalue Tang*
- Faculty of Humanities: *Dr. Martin Horn, Dr. Chandrima Chakraborty, Ms Nicole Areias*
- Faculty of Social Sciences: *Dr. Judy Fudge, Dr. Ameil Joseph, Dr. Peter Graefe, Dr. James Gillett*
- Faculty of Science: *Dr. Karen Kidd, Dr. Patrick Bennett, Dr. Laura Parker, Ms Haleigh Wallace*
- Faculty of Health Sciences: *Dr. Susan Reid, Ms Zoe Tsai*
- Board Representative: *Dr. Juliet Daniel, Ms Susan Galloway*
- Alumni: *Ms Beth Manganelli Staite*
- Ex Officio: *Dr. Doug Welch*

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 June 8, 2022 and that item 2 be approved by Consent.

The motion was **carried**.

CONSENT

2 MINUTES of the Meeting of May 18, 2022 – Open Session

Motion:

that the minutes of the Open Session portion of the meeting held on May 18, 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. President's Advisory Committee on Building an Inclusive Community – Annual Report**

Dr. Arig al Shaibah, Co-Chair of PACBIC, and Ms Faith Ogunkoya, Vice-Chair of PACBIC, presented the report.

Dr. al Shaibah thanked Ms Ogunkoya and the team for their work. Dr. al Shaibah explained that they have had challenges recruiting a co-Chair and that it is difficult to find faculty members who have experience, seniority, and a level of EDI. The report outlines a new initiative, an employee resource group for Black employees, and highlights five priorities for next year. Last year there were many conversations around aligning priorities with institutional strategies and priorities and a focus on greater collaboration, diverse identities and transitioning to in-person learning. Dr. al Shaibah added that they are working on recruitment and retention and how PACBIC can weigh in with special attention to Black inclusion. Ms Ogunkoya noted that the Black Indigenous Racialized Employee Group has 100 members and that there is a great deal of engagement. Ms Ogunkoya thanked Dr. al Shaibah for her leadership.

Dr. Farrar thanked Dr. al Shaibah and Ms Ogunkoya for their work.

In response to a question regarding the return to in-person learning and EDI, Dr. al Shaibah explained that PACBIC has a priority on creating policies with university design so they work for the entire community.

This item was for information.

6 REPORT FROM GRADUATE COUNCIL

Dr. Farrar thanked Dr. Welch on behalf of the University, for his service as the Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies.

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

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

1. New Graduate Course Management Policy

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the new Graduate Course Management Policy as set out in the attachment.

In response to a question regarding what was new in the policy, Dr. Welch provided an overview and explained the new policy anticipates that things may need to be adjusted quickly and outlines the obligations to inform students.

Members asked about the rationale for adding due date restrictions and whether it will change how assessments are done for graduate seminars. Dr. Welch explained that there has been a tendency for students not to receive their grades by the end of term or even the start of the new term and this effects their eligibility to start new courses. Students need to understand where their progress and have the ability to appeal the grade if necessary. Consultations on this issue were held with all associate deans. Dr. Welch noted that sessional dates include grade submission dates and that marks should be submitted before the winter break.

A member clarified that the official due date for assignments needs to be before the break starts and asked if this could be clarified in the policy. Dr. Welch noted that it would be adopted as a friendly amendment and that he would review the change with the Secretariat.

In response to a question about section A, Program Handbooks and The Graduate Calendar, Dr. Welch explained that it has to do with how students become informed about how their courses are run and the expectations.

A member expressed that students are not receiving timely feedback for every course and asked what students can do. Dr. Welch explained that it can be addressed with the professor and feedback can go to the Associate Deans.

The motion was **carried**.

2. Rescind Graduate Course Outline Policy

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve rescinding the Graduate Course Outline Policy.

The motion was **carried**.

The remainder of items were for information.

3. Faculty of Health Sciences
4. New Award

7 **REPORT FROM UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL**

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

- a. Policy Revisions to the Undergraduate Expectations for McMaster Vaccination Policy

Dr. Dej explained that at its May 10, 2022 meeting, Undergraduate Council (UGC) approved revisions to the Undergraduate Expectations for McMaster Vaccination Policy to reflect the pause to the Vaccination Policy and what could happen if it is resumed or the mask mandate is reinstated. UGC has engaged in a great deal of reflection over what worked and what did not during the pandemic. Dr. Dej added that the new, revised language allows the University to respond in appropriate ways.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve revisions to the Undergraduate Expectations for McMaster Vaccination Policy for inclusion in the General Academic Regulations in the Undergraduate Calendar 2022-2023, effective June 8, 2022, as circulated.

In response to a question regarding vaccination requirements, Dr. Dej explained that the University relied on the province's vaccination definition and will continue to follow the lead of the province.

A member asked how much notice is given for individuals who are not vaccinated. Dr. Dej explained that unvaccinated students will not be unenrolled but will not be allowed on campus. If students enroll in a course on campus and choose not to get vaccinated, the onus is on the student if vaccination becomes mandated again. The idea is to provide students with the information now, so if they are accepting an offer of admission they are aware of the possible requirements. Deadlines will be provided from the province. Dr. Dej noted that there is language in all offer letters that students must be able to come to campus to complete their courses and that McMaster does not offer fully online courses.

In response to why the vaccination policy was paused, Dr. Tighe explained that the University followed the guidance from Public Health and that the measures are consistent with Public Health guidelines.

A member requested to have it made visible that the Faculty of Health Sciences is maintaining the vaccination mandate beyond the Public Health guidelines. Dr. O'Byrne added that the Faculty of Health Sciences does have requirements that are slightly different from the University for those mandated by hospital partners.

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

8 REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dr. Susan Tighe, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), presented the report.

a. Consolidated Budget

Dr. Tighe explained that at its meeting on May 11, 2022, the University Planning Committee received the Consolidated Budget.

Dr. Tighe introduced Dr. John Preston, Budget Committee Chair. Mr. Iain Clarkson, Ms Lou Mitton and Ms Dee Henne were in attendance to answer questions.

Dr. Tighe provided an overview on how the University distributes revenues and expenses across the operating fund and who is involved in the budget committee. Dr. Tighe explained that most Faculties do not receive additional revenue from other resources, except for the Faculty of Health Sciences. Prior to the pandemic, many Faculties had budgeted for faculty hires and were not able to recruit the new hires, so they have funds allocated but not yet spent. Appropriations are an opportunity for Faculties to use that funding to start initiatives or invest in important activities.

Dr. Preston thanked all the members on the committee as well as the consultants and those that assist them.

Dr. Preston explained that international tuition has grown and that the operating grant is relatively flat. The 2022/23 post COVID outlook has resumption of full year activities and an emphasis on advancing McMaster's strategic priorities, such as the Global Nexus for pandemic and biological threats. Dr. Preston also explained that international growth supports inflationary pressures but may not suffice on an ongoing basis. It was explained that enrollment has not increased as much as peer institutions resulting in a potential reclass as a medium-sized university.

In response to a question regarding reclassifying McMaster as a medium-sized institution, Dr. Preston explained that they are unaware of the impact of this reclassification. Ms Henne added that it is anticipated to not have a great impact on

funding, that it would likely only change the institutions that McMaster is compared to in analysis.

This item was for information.

At its meeting on May 11, 2022, the University Planning Committee approved the following recommendations and now recommends them to Senate for approval:

b. Creation of the School of Biomedical Innovation and Entrepreneurship

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the creation of the School of Biomedical Innovation and Entrepreneurship, effective July 1, 2022.

The motion was **carried**.

c. Name Change Proposal

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the renaming of the General Motors Centre for Automotive Materials and Corrosion to Centre for Automotive Materials and Corrosion.

The motion was **carried**.

d. Report from Undergraduate Council.

i. Notice of Undergraduate Program Closures

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the closure of the Studio Art, Theatre & Film, and Art History Degree Programs.

A member noted their concern over the closure and expressed that the University needs these programs. Dr. Springgay explained that they are launching the iArts program and have a full cohort entering the program. They are not losing the arts, they are increasing the program to have a greater impact on campus.

The motion was **carried**.

(2 opposed)

ii. Establishment of New Certificate and Diploma Programs

Management Principles and Practices - Certificate, and Certificate of Professional Learning

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the establishment of the Certificate and the Certificate of Professional Learning in Management Principles and Practices, as circulated.

The motion was **carried**.

iii. Closure of Certificate and Diploma Programs

- i. Business Administration Diploma with the Business Analysis Concentration
- ii. Business Administration Diploma with the Management Concentration
- iii. Business Administration Diploma with the Project Management Concentration

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the closure of the Business Administration Diploma with the Business Analysis Concentration, the Business Administration Diploma with the Management Concentration, and the Business Administration Diploma with the Project Management Concentration as set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried**.

iv. New Certificate of Completion Programs

- i. Organizational Learning & Program Evaluations
- ii. Qualitative Data Collection & Analysis
- iii. Quantitative Data Collection & Analysis

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the establishment of three Certificate of Completion programs in Organizational Learning & Program Evaluation, Qualitative Data Collection & Analysis, and Quantitative Data Collection & Analysis.

The motion was **carried**.

v. BHSc (Integrated Rehabilitation and Humanities) Program Proposal

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the establishment of the Honours BHSc in Integrated Rehabilitation and Humanities for inclusion in the 2023-2024 Undergraduate Calendar, as set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried**.

9 REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS

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

On May 30, 2022, the Committee on Appointments approved the following recommendations and now recommends them to Senate for approval:

a. Terms of Reference

i. Revised Terms of Reference for Distinguished Business Research Professor

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the proposed revisions to the Distinguished Business Research Professor Terms of Reference, as circulated.

The motion was **carried**.

ii. Revised Terms of Reference for Dean of Faculties

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the proposed revisions to the Dean of Faculties Terms of Reference, as circulated.

Members agreed to make a friendly amendment to keep the word ‘intellectual’ under item 2.

A member expressed their concern around changing the terms of appointments and the potential for longer terms. Dr. Tighe explained that the intention is that terms would not be longer than five years and that the use of the words ‘normally’ and ‘frequently’ are consistent with other policies. Ms Thyret-Kidd added that appointments come through various committees for approval and questions regarding individual terms can be raised at that point.

In response to a question regarding the deletion of supervising non-academic staff, Dr. Tighe explained that in practice it is not a responsibility of the Dean and that typically the Director of Finance and Administration supervises the non-academic staff.

The motion was **carried**.

10 REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON BY-LAWS

Dr. Judy Fudge, Chair of the Committee on By-Laws, presented the report.

Senate accepted Notice of Motion for the amendments to the Faculty of Engineering By-Laws at its meeting on April 13, 2022, and the amendments to the Senate By-Laws at its meeting on May 18, 2022.

a. Amendments to the Faculty of Engineering By-Laws

At its meeting on May 31, 2022, the Committee reviewed and recommended that Senate approve the amendments to the Faculty of Engineering By-Laws.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate, on the recommendation of the Committee on By-Laws, approve the proposed amendments to the Faculty of Engineering By-Laws, as circulated.

The motion was **carried**.

b. Amendments to the Senate By-Laws

At its meeting on May 31, 2022, the Committee reviewed and recommended that Senate approve the amendments to the Senate By-Laws.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate, on the recommendation of the Committee on By-Laws, approve the proposed amendments to the Senate By-Laws, as circulated.

In response to a question about Faculty representation on Senate, Ms Thyret-Kidd explained that the representation is outlined in the University Act 1976 and was reflective of the size of the institution at that time. In order to change this, it would require going to the Ontario legislature.

Members thanked committee members for their work.

The motion was **carried**.

11 REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

Mr. Sean Van Koughnett, Chair of the Committee on Student Affairs, presented the report. Mr. Tim Cameron, Dispute Resolution Case Manager, and Ms Michelle Treleven, Dispute Resolution Case Manager, were in attendance to answer questions.

a. Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities

At its meeting on May 18, 2022, the Committee on Student Affairs received the revisions to the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. The revisions were approved via electronic vote on May 25, 2022.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the revisions to the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities effective July 1, 2022.

In response to a question regarding how to deal with students when their behaviour is deemed a consequence of health issues, Mr. Van Koughnett explained that involuntary withdraws are used as a last resort. There is a process for students who wish to return to school and to help ensure they are successful when they come back. The current appeal process can be very lengthy and involved and can put the student in a very stressful situation. They have made changes to the process whereby the Provost reviews the student's claim and makes a determination efficiently and in a less stressful manner.

A member asked what information is available so that a proper assessment can be made. Mr. Van Koughnett explained that consultations occur with experts in Student Affairs before any decisions are made.

The motion was **carried**.

12 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.