

## McMaster University

### SENATE MINUTES

VOL. CXII

Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers (111), Gilmour Hall

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**PRESENT:** Dr. David Farrar, Mr. Ahmed Abdalla, Dr. Alfonso Iorio, Ms Brenda O'Connor, Dr. Claudia Emerson, Ms Debbie Martin, Dr. Deborah Sloboda, Dr. Dina Brooks, Dr. Heather Sheardown, Dr. Hendrik Poinar, Dr. James Benn, Dr. Jeff Weitz, Dr. Jeremiah Hurley, Mr. Jim McCaughey, Dr. Kalai Saravanamuttu, Dr. Karen Mossman, Dr. Khaled Hassanein, Dr. Kim Dej, Mx Kusum Bhatta Dr. Lorraine Carter, Dr. Maikel Rheinstadter, Dr. Manaf Zargoush, Dr. Mark Boda, Mr. Mark Fahmy, Dr. Maureen MacDonald, Dr. Melinda Gough, Dr. Michael McGillion, Dr. Narat Charupat, Dr. Pamela Swett, Dr. Pau Pujolas, Dr. Paul Andrews, Dr. Paul Faure, Dr. Paul Higgs, Dr. Paul O'Byrne, Dr. Rick Monture, Ms Saher Fazilat, Mx Si Liu, Dr. Stephanie Springgay, Dr. Steve Hranilovic, Dr. Susan Tighe, Dr. Todd Hoare, Ms Andrea Thyret-Kidd (University Secretary), Ms Michelle Zheng (Associate University Secretary), Ms Alysha Sless (Assistant University Secretary)

**OBSERVERS:** Ms Andrea Farquhar, Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh, Ms Caroline Seiler, Ms Carolyn Brendon, Dr. Elisabeth Marquis, Ms Karen Richmond, Dr. Matheus Grasselli, Ms Melissa Pool, Mr. Rob Walters, Dr. Rob Whyte, Dr. Sandra Carroll, Mr. Sean Van Koughnett, Dr. Sonia Anand, Dr. Steven Bray, Dr. Susan Denburg, Ms Vivian Lewis

**REGRETS:** Dr. Mark Walton, Dr. Brenda Vrkljan, Dr. Renae Watchman, Dr. Joëlle Papillon, Dr. Nathan Andrews, Mr. Tyler Woo

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### A. *OPEN SESSION*

#### **OPENING REMARKS**

Dr. Farrar welcomed members to the meeting and acknowledged that McMaster is located on the traditional territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee nations.

Dr. Farrar congratulated Indigenous faculty, staff and students at McMaster on the official launch of the Indigenous Studies Department, which took place at the end of March. It is a truly exciting event in McMaster's history. McMaster has a three-decades long record of leadership in Indigenous studies and scholarship. The Indigenous Studies program – upon which the new department is built – is one of the longest-standing programs of its kind in Canada. The creation of the Indigenous studies department is a testament to the extraordinary contributions of the many Indigenous faculty members, staff and students who, for so many years, have enriched our campus and worked tirelessly to advance Indigenous studies, education, research, and scholarship at McMaster, in Canada, and around the world. Dr. Farrar noted that this is a tremendously

important step forward, both in supporting Truth and Reconciliation on our campus and in recognizing the outstanding work of Indigenous scholars, students and staff at McMaster. Dr. Farrar thanked all those whose dedication and commitment helped to make this important milestone a reality.

Dr. Farrar congratulated the more than 150 McMaster students, researchers and alumni who were part of the team that built the NEUDOSE satellite, which was launched from the Kennedy Space Center on March 14 aboard a SpaceX rocket, and bound for the International Space Station. The Satellite will help NASA better understand the harmful effects of space radiation – information which is critical to making space exploration safe for humans. This is an incredibly exciting project not just for McMaster, but for the global scientific and aerospace communities. Dr. Farrar thanked everyone who contributed to this extraordinary project.

Dr. Farrar welcomed Mr. Dave Cano, who recently joined the University as McMaster's new director of sustainability. McMaster is deeply committed to sustainability in all its forms, and in this leadership position, Cano will play an essential role in executing important initiatives including developing ambitious targets; defining key metrics related to McMaster's inaugural, campus-wide Sustainability Strategy; and helping to steer the university's Net Zero Carbon Roadmap.

Last month, students involved with the group MacDivest staged an eight-day hunger strike in the Student Centre. Dr. Farrar explained that their primary concern was for the students' health and safety. Senators will be hearing a presentation from members of MacDivest later in today's meeting. Professor Dr. Jim Quinn, from the faculty group MacGreenInvest, will also be presenting. McMaster is committed to a net-zero carbon campus and is on track to reduce our overall carbon emissions by 42% by 2024.

Following the last Senate meeting, there was a session on Collegial Governance which many Senators participated in. The session was co-chaired by the Provost, Dr. Susan Tighe and the President of MUFA, Dr. Katherine Cuff. After presentations with McMaster examples of the engagement of faculty in governing the academy, there were small group discussions. Dr. Farrar noted that he found the discussions very informative, especially in terms of the desire for more opportunities for discussion and engagement at Senate. Dr. Farrar proposed the following:

- provide time on Senate agendas for presentations and opportunities for feedback on issues of interest and items that will return to Senate for approval;
- provide the Senate with an update on items discussed at Board meetings; and
- provide a presentation on the Strategic Plan and on progress made against the Strategic Plan.

Dr. Farrar thanked everyone who attended this session and contributed to this important discussion.

Dr. Farrar explained that they are continuing to connect with all levels of government and updating them on the many great initiatives happening here on campus. Recently the provincial government presented its 2023-24 budget which included McMaster receiving a critical \$6.8

million investment in the Nuclear Reactor to allow it to operate 24 hours a day, five days a week. This will allow the reactor to increase the amount and diversity of medical isotopes being produced. Currently, 70,000 cancer patients benefit from medical isotopes produced in our reactor each year. Last month, Premier Doug Ford, the Minister of Health, and the Minister of Finance were on campus. During the visit, Dr. Farrar was able to speak to the Premier about the important issue of the corridor funding model. McMaster currently has over 7,500 students who are not funded by the corridor funding model, particularly in STEM disciplines. McMaster is admitting more students than we can fund to high-demand programs. Dr. Farrar explained that they are asking that the government fund these students. Further discussions and advocacy on this issue have occurred since the Premier's visit and Dr. Farrar will keep Senate posted.

At previous Senate meetings, it was mentioned that the province would be creating a blue-ribbon panel to provide advice and recommendations to the Minister of Colleges and Universities on the financial health and sustainability of the post-secondary sector. Last month, the province shared more information about the panel, which will be made up of leaders from the academic and business communities who have expertise in postsecondary education, research and innovation, financial management, and economic development. The chair of the panel is Dr. Alan Harrison who spent 26 years at McMaster as a faculty member and six years as McMaster's Dean of Social Sciences. Dr. Harrison has a deep understanding of McMaster and of the Ontario post-secondary sector.

Dr. Farrar explained that our advocacy is focused on unfreezing tuition, which has been frozen since 2018. We also continue to advocate for enrolment expansion, and we are asking for the province to unfreeze the block grant to meet the increased demand for our programs.

Ms Thyret-Kidd informed Senators that there was a delay with one of the Senate elections and to watch their emails for the call for Senators who are interested in serving on the Board of Governors next year.

## **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 12, 2023 and that items 2 and 3 be approved or received by Consent.**

The motion was **carried**.

## **CONSENT**

## **2 MINUTES of the Meeting of February 8, 2023 and March 8, 2023 – Open Session**

Motion:

that the minutes of the Open Session of the meetings held on February 8, 2023 and March 8, 2023 be approved as circulated.

Approved by Consent.

### 3 REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- i. Actions Taken on Behalf of Senate: Undergraduate Council Report

Received by Consent.

### REGULAR

### 4 BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

### 5 ENQUIRIES

There were no enquiries.

### 6 COMMUNICATIONS

- i. COU Academic Colleagues Update

Dr. Jerry Hurley, *Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences*, provided an update.

Dr. Hurley explained that the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) met last week and there was a focus on Artificial Intelligence (AI). They recognized that AI is here, it is not a fad, and it will require some changes. It is important to recognize that AI will present challenges as well as opportunities. There is an obligation to help students to understand how to use AI as they will be expected to use it after university. Dr. Hurley noted that there are some concerns around ethics and academic integrity. Dr. Hurley added that the main messaging is that faculty and students need support in understanding what AI is and how to use it well in a classroom.

### 7 REPORT FROM GRADUATE COUNCIL

Dr. Steve Hranilovic, *Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies*, presented the report.

Dr. Hranilovic updated Senators on the status of the Task Force on Graduate Funding. The group held two meetings and made progress in understanding the financial climate of the institution and the different funding sources. Dr. Hranilovic thanked Dr. Tighe for presenting on the budget. The aggregated data provided by the Office of Institutional Research & Analysis will be used to help inform and guide public discussions. The data

is aggregated by Faculty and includes the level of funding and sources which will be analyzed by the Task Force. Dr. Hranilovic explained that a website has been created to contain the outputs of the Task Force and to collect feedback that will be shared with the Task Force anonymously. The group worked on an engagement plan that includes small discussion groups consisting of graduate students, faculty and staff. Dr. Hranilovic noted that the two days of consultations will occur on May 11 and 12. A town hall will also be held in early June and the date will be communicated once finalized.

i. Faculty of Business – MFin – Program Change

At its meeting on March 21, 2023 Graduate Council approved a change to the Master of Finance admission requirements to note that students must also have a B+ in the relevant courses in their final year of study and that the program will consider a GRE score above the 50% percentile in the quantitative reasoning section in lieu of the GMAT.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the revision, for inclusion in the 2023-2024 Graduate Calendar, as recommended by Graduate Council and set out in the attached.**

The motion was **carried**.

ii. Faculty of Health Sciences – MHM – Program Change

At the same meeting Graduate Council approved the cancellation of the full-time stream of the Master of Health Management program. Dr. Hranilovic added that many individuals in the stream were working full-time.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the revision, for inclusion in the 2023-2024 Graduate Calendar, as recommended by Graduate Council and set out in the attached.**

The motion was **carried**.

iii. Faculty of Science – MSc – Program Change

At the same meeting Graduate Council approved a change to admission requirements for the Kinesiology M.Sc. to note that the program reviews the last two completed years of study.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the revision, for inclusion in the 2023-2024 Graduate Calendar, as recommended by Graduate Council and set out in the attached.**

The motion was **carried**.

At its meeting on March 21, 2023, Graduate Council approved revisions to the Certificates and Diplomas policy and the establishment of a joint Undergraduate and Graduate Council committee to oversee certificates, diplomas and microcredentials. Please see the report from Undergraduate Council for details. Dr. Hranilovic thanked Dr. Tracy Prowse and Dr. Michael Thompson for their work on the policy.

The remainder of items were for information.

- iv. Faculty of Business
- v. Faculty of Health Sciences
- vi. Faculty of Science
- vii. New Award

## **8 REPORT FROM UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL**

Dr. Kim Dej, *Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning*, presented the report.

### **i. New Diploma Program**

At its meeting on March 21, 2023, the Undergraduate Council approved, for recommendation to Senate, the Health Information Fundamentals (HIF) Diploma program. Dr. Dej explained that the new program was led by Dr. Lorraine Carter and involved many collaborations.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the Health Information Fundamentals (HIF) Diploma, as set out in the attached.**

The motion was **carried**.

### **ii. Revisions to Existing Certificate and Diploma Programs**

At the same meeting on March 21, the Undergraduate Council approved, for recommendation to Senate, revisions to the Diploma in Accounting, and to the Applied Clinical Research (ACR) Certificate. Dr. Dej noted a friendly amendment to the prerequisite course for ACR 103.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve revisions to the Diploma in Accounting and the Applied Clinical Research (ACR) Certificate, as amended.**

The motion was **carried**.

iii. Proposed Revisions to Certificates, Diplomas & Microcredentials Policy

Undergraduate and Graduate Councils approved, for recommendation to Senate, a set of proposed revisions to the Certificates, Diplomas & Microcredentials Policy.

Dr. Michael Thompson, *Associate Dean, Graduate Studies, Faculty of Engineering* and Dr. Trace Prowse, *Associate Dean, Academic, Faculty of Social Sciences* were the lead authors on the revisions.

Dr. Dej thanked Dr. Thompson and Dr. Prowse for their work on the project. The policy will sit with both Undergraduate and Graduate Council and they want to form a joint committee to review and approve new certificates, diplomas and microcredentials. Dr. Dej also thanked Mr. Brad Coburn from the Secretariat for assisting with the policy.

Dr. Thompson explained that the policy highlights the definition of a microcredential which was determined by an ad hoc committee and thanked everyone involved in the process. The policy describes microcredentials and the new Inspire Office is the key place where they will be recorded. Dr. Thompson added that stacking has been added and involves understanding how to build into major certificates. It is going to require Faculties to create their own committees to oversee microcredentials.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve renaming the Certificates and Diplomas Policy and the proposed revisions, effective April 12, 2023, as set out in the attached.**

The motion was **carried**.

The remainder of items were for information.

- iv. By-Law Changes: Proposal for Joint Committee on Certificates, Diplomas & Microcredentials
- v. Terms of Award
- vi. Addenda to Curriculum Revisions for Inclusion in the 2023-2024 Undergraduate Calendar
- vii. Revised Sessional Dates

## 9 REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Farrar explained that on March 29, 2023, the Senate Executive Committee approved renaming the Policy on Issuing Diplomas in Advance of Convocation and the proposed revisions.

The Policy on Issuing Diplomas in Advance of Convocation allows students to apply to the University Registrar for the early release of a diploma. This option is used by students who require their degree in advance of the ceremony due to employment requirements, professional registration, or further educational applications, etc. To facilitate a timelier process, the proposal is to delegate to the University Registrar the power to confer degrees between convocation ceremonies.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, approve renaming the Policy on Issuing Diplomas in Advance of Convocation and the proposed revisions, effective April 12, 2023.**

The motion was **carried**.

**10 REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

This item was for information.

**11 REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS**

**a. Committee on Appointments Report - March**

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

On March 20, 2023, the Committee on Appointments approved the following recommendation and now recommends it to Senate for approval:

- i. Terms of Reference
  - a. Joint MUFA-SCA Ad-Hoc Drafting Committee to Review Policies with a Faculty Association Observer

The role of a Faculty Association Observer is to monitor the workings of Hearing procedures under different university policies.

The proposal is for a joint MUFA-SCA Ad-Hoc Drafting Committee to review the role of Faculty Association Observers in these policies and in particular to ensure that a) Faculty Association Observers have the ability to provide a fulsome review of the hearing proceedings and that b) there is a clear and accountable way in which these reviews can be translated into better hearing procedures and policies.

It was duly moved and seconded,



**that Senate approve the terms of reference and committee composition for a Drafting Committee to review Policies with a Faculty Association Observer, as circulated.**

The motion was **carried**.

**b. Committee on Appointments Report – April**

On April 12, 2023, the Committee on Appointments approved the following recommendations and now recommends them to Senate for approval:

- i. Terms of Reference
  - a. Revised Terms of Reference for Associate Vice-President (Equity and Inclusion)

Dr. Hoare explained that the revisions provide more flexibility to the position allowing for both academic or non-academic individuals and having a title which reflects the role.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the revised terms of reference for the Associate Vice-President (Equity and Inclusion), as circulated.**

A member requested that the item be tabled as it was circulated today, and the Senate By-Laws stipulate that materials are to be provided six days in advance of the Senate meeting.

Ms Thyret-Kidd explained that this item is coming forward with the appointment and that this is how Vice-President appointments have historically proceeded due to confidentiality concerns. Dr. Tighe added that there were three primary revisions, noting that the initial description for the job was for an associate, non academic appointment. The terms of reference have been revised to allow for a Vice Provost academic appointment which includes a term limit. The other revisions include housekeeping as several offices have changed.

The member noted that this is unusual and in contravention of the By-Laws.

Dr. Farrar advised that the item will be brought to the next meeting.

The motion was **tabled**.

- b. Revised – Terms of Reference – Vice-President (University Advancement)

This item was moved to the next meeting.

## 12 OTHER BUSINESS

- i. Proposed Senate By-Law Revisions

Dr. Farrar explained that revisions to the Senate By-Laws is a three-step process, and this is the first step. Today, the Senate will be asked to approve the revisions in principle and to refer them to the By-Laws Committee. The By-Laws Committee will review and approve the changes, after which they will return to the Senate for final approval.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that the Senate approve in principle, the proposed revisions to the Senate By-Laws and refer the revisions to the By-Laws Committee for review.**

A member asked about the change in language removing the appendices and the declaration of willingness to serve. Ms Thyret-Kidd advised that the By-Laws referred to the closed session meeting materials as appendices and that they do not feel it is necessary to call it appendices. The observers will still receive the same materials. Ms Thyret-Kidd added that Senate has not used the declaration in years. Individuals are nominated and the Secretariat Office has a conversation with the individual and confirms they are willing to stand.

The motion was **carried**.

- ii. Presentation from MacDivest

Mr. Evan Ubene provided members with a presentation on MacDivest.

Mr. Ubene noted that the Senate By-Laws note that individuals are not permitted to record the meeting and asked for approval to film their presentation.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve an exemption to the Senate By-Laws to permit the filming of the MacDivest presentation.**

The motion was **carried**.

Mr. Ubene introduced the other individuals that would be speaking.

Mr. Ubene explained that the demands of hunger strike were for complete divestment by 2025 and the removal of fossil fuels from the portfolio. Mr. Ubene noted that they are attending Senate today to ask for members to contribute to their demands. They highlighted the negative impacts some companies have on the economy and MacDive's additional demand for the gas generators on campus to be removed. Mr. Ubene explained that the argument from the University is that it will pay for future green projects. MacDivest put forward some suggestions to eliminate the need for the gas generators including scheduling classes so they do not take place at times with high temperatures, de-air condition buildings, and an alternative battery option.

A member from MacDivest expressed that the hunger strike was not addressed properly by the University and there was a significant risk to the student's health. The member added that there needs to be more avenues for discussions between students and administration. The member shared statistics on emissions and noted that they oppose the natural gas project. The member noted that there needs to be consistency in what we say as an institution and what we do.

Another member from MacDivest acknowledged the privilege they have to ask for change and to speak to the University. The member expressed that sustainability needs to be understood and acknowledged and that students look to professors to learn and that allows them to question and be critical on how these systems work. The students should not have to be disruptive or hold a hunger strike to ask for changes. The member added that people are reliant on the fossil fuel industries in place and to dismantle it we need to start by sending a message about divestment. They are disappointed with the Board of Governors' response to the hunger strike and want to be incorporated into conversations on McMaster's goal to a sustainable world. The member thanked Senators for the opportunity to speak and asked them to help make changes.

Mr. Ubene thanked members for their time and distributed a handout with contact information.

iii. Presentation from MacGreenInvest

Dr. Jim Quinn presented on MacGreenInvest

Dr. Quinn noted that the students did a good job of presenting their concerns and demands and held a hunger strike because they did not get the attention in the past. Dr. Quinn explained that after nine years, McMaster still has fossil fuels in their investment portfolio and the University is building a gas generator on campus. If used, the generators will emit CO<sub>2</sub> directly and likely methane indirectly in fracking. Dr. Quinn added that the Carbon Underground 200 companies should be removed from the portfolio and that there are alternatives for generators including allowing employees to work from home, shifting Senate

meeting to the morning, and shutting down air conditioning. MacGreenInvest has three main goals:

1. Create greener alternative to gas generators.
2. Divest.
3. Reinvest in green projects.

Dr. Quinn suggested that Senate could initiate an academic faculty/student reduction of CO2.

In response to a question about how much it would cost to remove the generators, Dr. Quinn advised that the money could be recouped if not used and sent back.

A Senator noted that the guests were invited to present at Senate by two elected Senators and that anyone can request an appearance before Senate if the request is made at least four working days in advance. The Senator thanked the members for attending and sharing their information.