

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE**

**VOL.CXVII**

Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 3:30 p.m., Council Chambers, Gilmour Hall 111

**PRESENT:** David Farrar (Chair), Ahmed Abdalla, Maxwell Altman, Paul Andrews, Kusum Bhatta, Mark Boda, Blaise Bourdin, Dina Brooks, Lorraine Carter, Kim Dej, Wael El-Dakhakhni, Claudia Emerson, Paul Faure, Carlos Filipe, Saara Greene, Faiza Hirji, Jeremiah Hurley, Suleiman Igdoura, Alfonso Iorio, Manish Kacker, Sarrah Lal, Siying Lu, Graeme Luke, Maureen MacDonald, Sanamdeep Matharu, John Medcof, Rick Monture, Paul O'Byrne, Brenda O'Connor, Heva Olfman, Joëlle Papillon, Pau Pujolas, Stacey Ritz, Kalai Saravanamuttu, Chris Sinding, Dennis Souder, Pamela Swett, Susan Tighe, Mark Walton, Zimo Wang, Renae Watchman, Jeff Weitz, Kerry Yang, Margaret Zanel, Eugenia Zuroski  
Andrea Thyret-Kidd (*University Secretary*), Alysha Sless (*Assistant University Secretary*), Kelly Snow (*Assistant University Secretary*)

**REGRETS:** Hfsa Awan, Nathan Andrews, James Benn, Saher Fazilat, Khaled Hassanein, Steve Hranilovic, Lili Litwin, Michael McGillion, Heather Sheardown, Stephanie Springgay, Brenda Vrkljan

**OBSERVERS:** Catherine Anderson, Carolyn Brendon, Sandra Carroll, Andrea Farquhar, Matheus Grasselli, Vivian Lewis, Jack Mah, Elisabeth Marquis, Melissa Pool, Karen Richmond, Sarah Robinson, Sean Van Koughnett, Barrington Walker, Rob Walters

**GUESTS:** Melanie Heath, *Associate Dean School of Graduate Studies (SGS), Social Sciences*  
Arlene Dosen, *Executive Director and Assistant Dean, Student Success*  
Mei-Ju Shih, *Director, Student Accessibility Services (SAS)*  
Kevin Beatty, *Director Housing & Conference Services*

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**OPEN SESSION**

David Farrar welcomed members to the meeting and began by acknowledging that we meet today on the traditional territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee nations and within the lands protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement.

Today is National Indigenous Veterans Day, which commemorates the contributions and sacrifices of Indigenous people in the service of Canada. The poppy D. Farrar is wearing is a beaded poppy that commemorates that day. Truth and Reconciliation can be advanced by making efforts to better understand the role Indigenous Veterans have played in our collective history and expressing our gratitude.

D. Farrar expressed that over the past month, we have continued to witness the violence in Israel and Gaza and the profound impact it is having on many members of the McMaster community. We have heard from Palestinian, Muslim, Arab, Israeli and Jewish students, faculty, staff and community members who have expressed sadness, anxiety and anger, and we have listened to stories of tremendous loss. D. Farrar

explained that they have also seen many individuals and groups in our community come together in peaceful, respectful ways that truly reflect McMaster's core values, and our commitments to Freedom of Expression and inclusive excellence. D. Farrar expressed that he is heartened and impressed that this spirit of empathy and support, and the pursuit of knowledge and understanding, has prevailed, despite the current challenges. As an institution of higher learning, ensuring our campus remains safe and inclusive is paramount, and we continue to focus on providing our community with the necessary supports and resources. Our priority is working with impacted student groups. University leaders continue to check in and meet regularly with Palestinian, Muslim, Arab and Jewish groups and leadership, including McMaster Hillel, the McMaster Muslim Student Association and the Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights student group. All places of worship, including those associated with student associations and organizations on our campus, are receiving extra attention from Security Services. Advice and guidelines have been shared for faculty members organizing events, so they are designed to support the safety and well-being of participants, and help faculty navigate challenging conversations in a thoughtful and inclusive way. Students impacted by this situation have been encouraged to go through their Faculty offices to receive academic relief as appropriate. D. Farrar noted that we will continue to support our community in the months ahead by offering safe and inclusive spaces for dialogue around these complex issues. The Equity and Inclusion Office is working with other areas to develop this program.

Our goal as an academic institution must be to remain focused on providing a supportive, safe environment where differing and challenging views can be expressed with respect, in keeping with our commitment to Freedom of Expression. While we hope everyone in our community will carefully consider the impact of their words and actions, in person, and on social media, in the past few weeks, there have been some incidents that do not reflect McMaster's inclusive culture and are incompatible with our values of compassion, belonging and respect. These incidents are being reviewed in alignment with university policies including the Discrimination and Harassment Policy, the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, and other policies as appropriate. There is no room for Antisemitism, anti-Palestinian racism, Islamophobia, hate, racism, harassment, discrimination or professional misconduct at McMaster. At times like this, it is more important than ever that we can come together as a community, and engage with one another in respectful, compassionate ways. D. Farrar thanked everyone who has continued to work together in our laboratories, classrooms, offices, clinical settings and social spaces in a respectful and peaceful manner. D. Farrar is confident members of our community will continue to support one and other in the days and months ahead.

D. Farrar shared that McMaster has received an historic gift in support of Black student success initiatives on campus. RBC recently made a \$1.5 million gift to fund the Empowering Black Student Success: Unlocking Future Leaders program, which will support Black students in every stage of their educational journey – from high school to university graduation – through mentorship programs, tutoring, assistance with the university application process, lectures and networking opportunities. This is the largest gift dedicated to Black student success in McMaster's history, and it aligns perfectly with our commitment to empowering Black youth and to building a more inclusive and welcoming campus community for all.

Last month, McMaster held a special event to celebrate Latin American Heritage Month, hosted by The Latin American Network at McMaster in partnership with Hamilton non-profit The Fraternity Hispanic Association. The event was an opportunity for McMaster's growing Latin American and Latin-X community to come together in person to celebrate their unique cultures and traditions and educate others in our community about the diverse experiences of people from the region — which includes North, Central and South America, as well as the Caribbean.

D. Farrar explained that McMaster has reached an important milestone in our ongoing work to reduce the carbon footprint of our investments. This year's Annual Financial Report shows that we have successfully reduced the carbon footprint of our investments by 70% over 2018 levels. McMaster is taking what's called a "decarbonization" approach to lowering the carbon footprint of our investments. This means reviewing the amount of carbon exposure across all our investments, not just those related to oil and gas – and focusing on transitioning to low-carbon investments while divesting from higher-carbon holdings. As a result of our efforts, just 1.6% of the university's holdings are now in high-carbon emitting companies, that's down from 2.7% last year. This is an excellent result, and one that's in keeping with McMaster's strong commitment to fighting climate change. Going forward, we will continue to look at ways to accelerate the decarbonization of our investment portfolio.

Last week, D. Farrar had the pleasure of attending *Imagining 2080: A Forum on Canada's Futures*, hosted by the Future of Canada Project. The initiative is funded through a gift from McMaster's former chancellor, Red Wilson, to support research projects that build a more equitable, sustainable, resilient, and prosperous Canada. The Forum invited delegates from across the country to think two generations ahead to explore possible futures for Canada. It was a great three-days of talks, field trips and conversations. In keeping with the importance of Truth and Reconciliation both the opening and closing addresses at the Forum were delivered by Indigenous speakers, who asked us to think many generations ahead. This is very much in the spirit of the Future of Canada project, and what we need to do to build a positive future for our country.

Tomorrow, D. Farrar will be joined by university leaders for the official groundbreaking of McMaster's newest residence, Lincoln Alexander Hall, which will provide 1,400 new housing spaces for undergraduate students. The residence is named for the great Lincoln Alexander, a graduate of McMaster, Canada's first Black MP and Ontario's first Black lieutenant-governor, whose life-long dedication to learning, racial equality, and civic leadership continues to serve as an inspiration. In keeping with Linc's tremendous legacy, the residence will be a living and learning community that centres on inclusive excellence, sustainability & wellness, and self-discovery & learning. It will also include leadership programming, address accessibility barriers faced by equity-deserving communities, and ensure an elevated standard of environmental responsibility.

D. Farrar shared that a team of researchers – led by our Dean of Engineering, Heather Sheardown – has been awarded the prestigious Brockhouse Canada Prize for Interdisciplinary Research in Science and Engineering. It's very appropriate that a McMaster researcher should receive this prize, as Bertram Brockhouse did his Nobel Prize-winning research here at Mac. The team was awarded the prize for creating The C20/20 Innovation Hub, which is dedicated to developing new biomaterials and therapies for vision disorders, such as macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma and cataracts. This award is a testament to the research talent here at McMaster, and also highlights the impact of this research, which has the potential to improve the quality of life for millions of Canadians with vision disorders.

D. Farrar noted that we continue to work with our provincial and federal government partners on issues of importance to McMaster and the post-secondary sector. D. Farrar had the opportunity last Wednesday to meet with Doug Brewer, who recently began the role as the Premier's Executive Director of Policy. It was a good discussion as I explained McMaster's financial challenges and encouraged the province to look deeply at our funding as they consider their response to the Blue-ribbon Panel on the financial sustainability of Ontario's post-secondary institutions. D. Farrar will be back at Queen's Park next Tuesday for McMaster's annual Advocacy day.

D. Farrar was in Ottawa yesterday and Monday with senior University leaders and researchers for meetings with MPs and government officials along with an alumni reception.

They discussed several important McMaster initiatives including:

- Global Nexus School for Pandemic Prevention & Response;
- Nuclear, science and engineering;
- Decarbonization;
- MIP and;
- Student housing expansion projects.

The federal government recently provided some cities, including London, Ontario, with funding for housing, and D. Farrar advised they encouraged them to do the same for universities.

### **1. Approval of Agenda – Open Session**

D. 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 the Senate approve the Open Session agenda for the meeting of November 8, 2023 and that item 2 be approved by Consent.**

The motion was **Carried**.

### **CONSENT**

### **2. Minutes of the Meetings of October 18, 2023 – Open Session**

Motion:

**that the minutes of the Open Session of the meeting held on October 18, 2023 be approved as circulated.**

**Approved** by Consent.

### **REGULAR**

### **3. Business Arising**

There was no business arising.

### **4. Enquiries**

A member commented that at the last meeting Senate received an informative report from the Ombuds office. The member commented on some aspects of the report that they felt were relevant

to Senate going forward including aspects of procedural fairness, decisions based on regulations, the use of interim measures, and the right to appeal. The member stressed the importance of fairness and thanked Caroline Brendon for an excellent report.

Another member shared concerns regarding an individual engaged in a grievance process, freedom of speech and questioned the confidentiality of the case. D. Farrar explained that the case is in arbitration and a response will be provided at the next Senate meeting.

## **5. Communications**

There were no communications.

## **6. Report from Graduate Council**

### **1. New Award**

This item was for information.

Melanie Heath, *Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies, Social Sciences*, provided an update on the task force on graduate funding noting that the task force has completed a draft report with recommendations and will present the final report to the Provost in December. The Provost will determine the next steps.

## **7. Report from Undergraduate Council**

Kim Dej, *Chair of Undergraduate Council*, provide an update on the ad hoc Committee on Relief for Student Absences and how Senators can participate. Senators were informed that they can send any feedback or input on the MSAF policy to the ad hoc Committee on Relief for Student Absences by contacting the Secretariat ([ugc@mcmaster.ca](mailto:ugc@mcmaster.ca)).

## **8. Report from the University Planning Committee**

D. Farrar explained that these items were reported and approved by Senate on October 18, 2023, as recommended by Undergraduate Council. Due to timing, the items are now being reported to Senate through the University Planning Committee for information.

- 1. New Certificate of Attendance Program Proposals from the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioural Neurosciences**
- 2. Revision to Existing Diploma Program**
- 3. Closure of Diploma Program**

## **9. Report from the Committee on Appointments**

Joëlle Papillon, *Chair of the Senate Committee on Appointments*, presented the report.

J. Papillon explained that on October 23, 2023, the Committee on Appointments approved the following recommendations and now recommends them to Senate for approval:

**1. Terms of Reference**

- a. Revised Terms of Reference - Associate Dean, Continuing Professional Development
- b. Revised Terms of Reference - Associate Dean, Graduate Studies (Engineering)
- c. Revised Terms of Reference - Director, Experiential Learning Office (ELO)
- d. Revised Terms of Reference and Name Change - Associate Vice-President (Research)
- e. Revised Terms of Reference and Name Change - AstraZeneca Chair in Respiratory Epidemiology
- f. Establishment of the Terms of Reference for Director, Minor in Innovation

An omnibus motion was proposed for the circulated terms of reference and name changes.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that the Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the proposed revisions, name changes, and establishment of terms of reference, as circulated.**

Regarding the revised terms of reference for the AstraZeneca Chair, a member asked about the requirement of the Chair being in the department of medicine. It was explained that it is common to have endowed chairs based within departments as the departments are providing resources to support the role. The requirement was an omission in the previous terms of reference.

The motion was **Carried**.

- a. Revised Terms of Reference - Associate Dean, Continuing Professional Development, Faculty of Health Sciences

Motion:

**that the Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the revised terms of reference for the Associate Dean, Continuing Professional Development, Faculty of Health Sciences, as circulated.**

**Approved** by omnibus motion.

- b. Revised Terms of Reference - Associate Dean, Graduate Studies (Engineering)

Motion:

**that the Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the revised terms of reference for the Associate Dean, Graduate Studies (Engineering), as circulated.**

**Approved** by omnibus motion.

- c. Revised Terms of Reference - Director, Experiential Learning Office (ELO)

Motion:

**that the Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the revised terms of reference for the Director, Experiential Learning Office (ELO), as circulated.**

**Approved** by omnibus motion.

- d. Revised Terms of Reference and Name Change - Associate Vice-President (Research)

Motion:

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

**Approved** by omnibus motion.

- e. Revised Terms of Reference and Name Change - AstraZeneca Chair in Respiratory Epidemiology

Motion:

**that the Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the revised terms of reference for the AstraZeneca Chair in Respiratory Epidemiology and the renaming of the AstraZeneca Chair in Respiratory Epidemiology to the AstraZeneca Chair in Respiratory Diseases, as circulated.**

**Approved** by omnibus motion.

- f. Establishment of the Terms of Reference for Director, Minor in Innovation

Motion:

**that the Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the establishment of the Director, Minor in Innovation, as circulated.**

**Approved** by omnibus motion.

## 10. Report from the Committee on By-Laws

Saara Greene, *Member of the Committee on By-Laws*, presented the report.

S. Greene reminded members that Senate accepted Notice of Motion for the amendments to the Faculty of Science By-Laws at its meeting on September 13, 2023, and the amendments to the Senate By-Laws at its meeting on April 12, 2023.

## 1. Amendments to the Faculty of Science By-Laws

At its meeting on September 27, 2023, the Committee reviewed and recommended that Senate approve the amendments to the Faculty of Science By-Laws.

The Committee made some additional revisions around clarification of the term “Faculty” and whether it referred to General or Council, and added a note specifying that the Tenure, Permanence & Promotion Committee is recognized as the Faculty Tenure and Promotion Committee as outlined in the Tenure and Promotion Policy.

It was duly moved and seconded,

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

In response to a question regarding the distinction between faculty general and council, Maureen MacDonald explained that the revision was to provide clarity in the operation of the two different committees.

Members discussed the different structures in each of the Faculties noting that the language was consistent with the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The motion was **Carried**.

## 2. Amendments to the Senate By-Laws

At its meeting on September 27, 2023, and approved by e-vote on November 1, 2023, the Committee reviewed and recommended that Senate approve the amendments to the Senate By-Laws.

The Committee made some additional revisions including removing the Vice-Provost (Teaching & Learning) from the Academic Integrity Committee membership (s.113.) and amending the language for the distribution of senior administrator selection committee reports (items 10.b and Schedule D, Section V).

The committee discussed concerns received last spring regarding the timing of the distribution of materials and agreed to add language that Senators would be notified of an upcoming report on the Senate meeting agenda.

It was duly moved and seconded,

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

A member requested that the item be discussed in the Closed Session. D. Farrar agreed.



## 11. Report from the Committee on Student Affairs

Sean Van Koughnett, *Chair of the Committee on Student Affairs*, presented the report.

### 1. Student Accessibility Services Review

At its meeting on September 27, 2023, the Committee on Student Affairs received a report on Student Accessibility Services.

S. Van Koughnett presented the SAS review and recommendations/actions from the review. The number of students registered with academic accommodation plans has increased over the years and this trend is not unique to McMaster. The purpose of the review was to understand how to be more efficient and effective in providing support. Currently there are 500 students per program coordinator and S. Van Koughnett explained that they plan to decrease the number to 350.

A question was raised around audio recordings of lectures. Mei-Ju Shih, *Director, Student Accessibility Services (SAS)*, explained that there is a duty to accommodate from the Human Rights Code. The campus has both the Academic Accommodation Policy and copyright laws to consider and sometimes there are competing priorities. M. Shih noted that they are consulting with the Equity and Inclusion Office and the Office of Legal Services. Students can record lectures for personal use only and the copyright remains with the instructor.

Members raised concerns around the potential for a breach of copyright, and the intellectual property and privacy issues.

### 2. Housing and Conference Services Initiatives 2023-2026

At its meeting on September 27, 2023, the Committee on Student Affairs also received a report on the Housing and Conference Services Initiatives for 2023-2026.

S. Van Koughnett explained that the plan over the next five years includes the graduate residence at 10 Bay, Wilson College and Lincoln Alexander. A housing demand study was part of the process used to inform the Campus Plan and there is a strong demand for future residence expansion as residence provides many benefits to students.

A member noted concerns regarding the development of 10 Bay explaining that there has been noise pollution. S. Van Koughnett explained that the opening of the new building has not been smooth, and some amenities were not available immediately. Students were reimbursed 50% rent in September and 25% in October to rectify the situation.

In response to a question about the rent, Kevin Beatty, *Director, Housing and Conference Services*, explained that all the rates are public and can be viewed online. K. Beatty provided an explanation of the current rental market and benefits to living in 10 Bay, and added that the most expensive model is the one that is in highest demand.

A member asked about the number of accommodations and enrolment. S. Van Koughnett explained that there is a higher percentage of students registered, partially due to mental health now being recognized as being eligible to receive accommodations. M. Shih provided an overview of the process students go through to obtain an accommodation.

These items were for information.

**12. Other Business**

There was no other business.