

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE VOL. CXXIX

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

PRESENT: David Farrar (Chair), Maxwell Altman, Sonia Anand, Paul Andrews, James Benn, Blaise Bourdin, Dina Brooks, Kim Dej, Arlene Dosen, Mohamed Ezzeldin, David Feinberg, Carlos Filipe, Omolade George, Saara Greene, Khaled Hassanein, Faiza Hirji, Steve Hranilovic, Jialiang Hu, Jeremiah Hurley, Suleiman Igdoura, Alfonso Iorio, Andy Knights, Lili Litwin, Siying Lu, Graeme Luke, Sanamdeep Matharu, Sue McCracken, Michael McGillion, Cameron Nolan, Paul O'Byrne, Joëlle Papillon, Gianni Parise, Tracy Prowse, Stacey Ritz, Kalai Saravanamuttu, Heather Sheardown, Shahram Shirani, Dennis Souder, Pamela Swett, Susan Tighe, Zimo Wang, Renae Watchman, Kerry Yang, Eugenia Zuroski, Andrea Thyret-Kidd (*University Secretary*), Michelle Zheng (*Associate University Secretary*), Alysha Sless (*Assistant University Secretary*)

REGRETS: Hfsa Awan, Kusum Bhatta, Lorraine Carter, Narat Charupat, Juanita Debarros, Manish Kacker, Neil McLaughlin, Alex Mouriopoulos, Brenda Vrkljan, Margaret Zanel

GUESTS: Sukhvinder Obhi, *Associate Vice-President, Research (Society & Impact)*
Matthew Miller, *Executive Director, Global Nexus*

OBSERVERS: Carolyn Brendon, Sandra Carroll, Rosa da Silva, Andrea Farquhar, Darran Fernandez, Matheus Grasselli, Martin Horn, Priya John, Elisabeth Marquis, Melissa Pool, Karen Richmond, Sean Van Koughnett, Barrington Walker, Rob Walters

OPEN SESSION

Opening Remarks

David Farrar, *President & Vice-Chancellor*, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the incoming Board Chair who was in attendance. D. Farrar acknowledged 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.

D. Farrar noted that McMaster has developed draft Principles of Responsible Investment, which are intended to act as a high-level guide to the university's approach to investing. Once finalized, the Principles will work in alignment with the University's formal Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures. Feedback is being sought from across the university community and Senators are encouraged to take a look and

share their views. The deadline to provide feedback is January 31, 2025. A final draft will then be prepared for review by the Board of Governors.

D. Farrar explained that the Vice-President, Research position has been advertised and our search consultant is working hard to encourage applications and generate a strong and diverse candidate pool. The Selection Committee is open to ongoing feedback as the search progresses. Nominations and suggestions can be sent to the Committee via the University Secretariat.

The Provost Selection Committee has just begun meeting. The Committee is engaging in a community consultation process over the coming weeks and is aiming to advertise the role in the new year. Senators were advised that the Committee plans to advertise the Provost role as a six-year term. McMaster appointments are typically for a five-year term and there is no intention to permanently change that. The President and Provost appointments are currently aligned with the same end date of June 30, 2030. To avoid the appointments ending at the same time, and to allow for some overlap and continuity in leadership, the Committee is planning an initial anomalous 6-year appointment for the Provost. Further updates on the Committee's work will be provided as the search proceeds.

At the last Senate meeting members were informed of our provincial advocacy and McMaster's Queen's Park Day. D. Farrar explained that they are also focused on federal advocacy and held our annual Ottawa advocacy days last week. The focus was on strengthening relationships with both Liberal and Conservative MPs as well as senators, deputy ministers, and staff at Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, Health Canada, Energy and Natural Resources Canada, and the Public Health Agency of Canada. The meetings provided an opportunity to discuss McMaster's key priorities including nuclear research, innovation, and infectious disease research. We were also able to raise the issue of exempting graduate students from the federal government's new international student visa rules, and emphasized the importance of this for PhD students, in particular.

D. Farrar noted that McMaster recently celebrated the launch of the Canadian Neutron Beam Laboratory, which was supported by \$57 million in funding from the federal and provincial governments. The Neutron Beam Laboratory is the only facility of its kind in Canada and one of only seven in North America. The new lab forms part of the McMaster Nuclear Reactor and will allow scientists from around the world to accelerate materials research in critical areas like clean energy, clean transportation, advanced manufacturing and medicine.

The initial meeting with the provincial government was held to discuss the next iteration of our strategic mandate agreement (SMA4). The SMA is McMaster's agreement with the province that governs our enrolment-based grant funding. The next agreement will run from 2025-2030 and includes our core operating grant which is based on enrolment, a metrics-based component, and special purpose grants. The province is moving to an increasingly metrics-based system, which means we need to meet our metrics to secure

all possible funding. Key themes for the Ministry are financial stability balanced with accountability, STEM programming, and a focus on meeting labour market demands. McMaster is well positioned within the sector on all of these. The Provost's Office is leading the discussions around metrics and weightings and is planning a detailed update on SMA4 at our March meeting.

D. Farrar reported that McMaster researcher Sonia Anand, who also served as McMaster's acting Associate Vice-President, Equity and Inclusion, has been awarded the Health Research Foundation's Diversity & Equity in Research Award. The award is distributed annually to honour individuals who have significantly advanced diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in health research. D. Farrar and members congratulated S. Anand.

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 Senate approve the Open Session agenda for the meeting of December 11, 2024 and that items 2 and 3 be approved or received by Consent.

The motion was **Carried**.

CONSENT

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – November 13, 2024 (Open Session)

Motion:

that the minutes of the Open Session of the meeting held on November 13, 2024 be approved as circulated.

Approved by Consent.

3. Report from the University Planning Committee

a. Report from Facility Services

Received by Consent.

REGULAR

4. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

5. Enquiries

There were no enquiries.

6. Communications**a. Equity and Inclusion Office Annual Report**

Barrington Walker, *Vice-Provost, Equity and Inclusion*, presented the report. B. Walker highlighted the activities and accomplishments for the past academic year and thanked members of the Equity and Inclusion Office (EIO) and the McMaster University community. Highlights include the EDI strategic plan which is underway, a focus on accessibility and decolonization, the AccessMac Program, and policy updates and training. Members were provided with a statistical report of complaints and consultations, noting that the length of the investigation process has been significantly shortened. B. Walker added that some individuals had multiple complaints which increased numbers, and that leaders have done an excellent job of working with the EIO.

A member suggested a friendly amendment, noting that a summary rather than the full report of the Best Practice Review of Investigative Process report is posted on the Provost's website.

In response to a question raised around socioeconomic inequalities, B. Walker noted that it is not a protected ground in the Ontario Human Rights Code. Socioeconomic inequalities exist but are not one of the areas included in the report.

D. Farrar thanked B. Walker for the report.

This item was for information.

b. Enrolment Figures

Matheus Grasselli, *Deputy Provost*, and Steve Hranilovic, *Vice-Provost & Dean of Graduate Studies*, presented the report.

S. Hranilovic explained that the overall headcount decreased moderately, less than 1%. The Master's enrollment is stable with an increase in the Faculty of Engineering. Doctoral students' enrolment is stable and there was an increase in total part-time graduate and doctoral student headcount.

M. Grasselli discussed the undergraduate enrolment figures while discussing the Enrolment Management Team.

This item was for information.

c. Enrolment Management Team

Matheus Grasselli, *Deputy Provost*, spoke to the item. M. Grasselli explained that the Enrolment Management Team (EMT) was created as four teams 28 years ago. The terms of reference are currently being revised.

M. Grasselli advised that there was an increase in domestic applications, offers and registrations, and a large decrease in international students. Targets for recruitment is done program by program in the Faculty. The trend in domestic enrolment is continuing on target, and the trend for international enrolment is under enrolment.

A member requested that the presentation be made available and asked how decisions are made. M. Grasselli explained that decisions start with the Faculty. The Dean's receive a draft of targets and hold consultations with Associate and Assistant Deans to review the targets and consider financials and resource constraints. After Provost Council discusses, the targets go to EMT and additional considerations are examined such as housing and space constraints for the University. Another round of discussions is held and then a formal vote. The recommended targets are sent to the Provost.

In response to a question regarding projections for Wilson College and the justification of the projections, M. Grasselli noted that it received Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) approval, UPC and Senate approval and that the rationale was included.

In response to questions around international student enrolment and geopolitical effects, M. Grasselli explained that each student requires a Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL) and we cannot have more students than there are PALs. S. Tighe noted that the federal government has not released any information yet and that the undergraduate allocation will likely be the same as this year. At Ottawa day, inline with the other U15 universities, there was a request that the government not require PALs for Ph.D. students under the rationale that they are highly qualified individuals coming to Canada. S. Tighe noted that they will continue to advocate and work with partners. M. Grasselli advised that they continue to monitor the geopolitical concerns, that China and India are the largest sources of enrolment and that applications from all countries have been reduced.

This item was for information.

d. Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)

Sukhvinder Obhi, *Associate Vice-President, Research (Society & Impact)*, spoke to the item.

S. Obhi explained that the University is considering signing DORA. DORA was developed by the American Association of Cell Biology at its annual meeting in 2012 and has two recommendations for institutions. The first is around the journal impact factor and the second is encouraging institutions to broaden research contributions beyond papers and grants. NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR have all signed onto DORA and are evolving to consider DORA principles. S. Obhi noted that DORA will encourage us to re-examine our practices and that it is in line with McMaster's emphasis on impact.

S. Obhi provided an overview of the consultation and implementation processes noting that some aspects contained in DORA are already being done at McMaster. Senior leadership in Health Sciences, Humanities, Social Sciences, Business, the Dean of Engineering, the office of Vice-President, Research, the MUFA President and PVP have all been engaged in discussions. S. Obhi noted that members who want to submit comments or discuss DORA further can email him by January 24, 2025.

Questions were raised in regard to implementation and an unintentional creep in expectations. S. Obhi advised that there is no concern with different expectations as it is clear how individuals are being assessed. The DORA standard is in conjunction with qualitative information. It is qualitative plus a bit for quantitative.

A member noted that they would like to have a larger discussion on the topic. D. Farrar advised that the document would not be signed without consultations.

This item was for information.

7. Report from Graduate Council

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

S. Hranilovic explained that at its meeting on November 12, 2024, Graduate Council approved the following item:

a. Curriculum Revisions

1. Faculty of Social Science
 - i. Admission Requirements – Economics Ph.D.
 - ii. New Stream – Master of Public Policy Program
 - iii. Cancelled Stream – M.A. in Sociology

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the curriculum revisions, for inclusion in the 2025-2026 Graduate Calendar, as circulated.

In response to a question regarding the process for closing a program, it was explained that the closure is considered by the Curriculum Committee, then Graduate Council, and finally Senate. The initial decision starts in the Department and is then taken to the Faculty level. It can also result from an IQAP review.

The motion was **Carried**.

The remainder of items were for information.

- b. Curriculum Revisions**
- c. Program Closure**
- d. New Awards**

8. Report from Undergraduate Council

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

K. Dej explained that at its meeting on November 5, 2024, Undergraduate Council reviewed and approved the following item:

a. New Non-Academic Microcredential Programs

1. McMaster Equity-Based Co-Creation Ambassador
2. McMaster Equity-Based Co-Creation (EqCC) Coach
3. EqCC Experience Advisor

The programs are based upon understanding the need between campus and hospitals and to build skills.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the following non-academic microcredentials in Foundational Competencies and Tools for Equity-Based Co-Creation, as circulated.

- 1. McMaster Equity-Based Co-Creation Ambassador**
- 2. McMaster Equity-Based Co-Creation (EqCC) Coach**
- 3. EqCC Experience Advisor**

In response to a question regarding the definition of non-academic, it was explained that the term was agreed upon by the Certificates, Diplomas and Microcredential Committee. The difference between academic and

non-academic is whether a grade is assigned, feedback received, the types of assessments and whether it can be used or stacked in a graduate or undergraduate program.

The motion was **Carried**.

At its meeting on December 10, 2024, Undergraduate Council reviewed and approved the following items:

b. Proposal to Pilot a Facilitated Admission Process for Indigenous Applicants to the Arts & Science Program

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Senate approve the proposal to pilot the Facilitated Admission Process for Indigenous Applicants, as recommended by the Arts & Science program, and as circulated.

The motion was **Carried**.

c. Curriculum Reports: Major Curriculum Revisions for Inclusion in the 2025-2026 Undergraduate Calendar

K. Dej noted that the revisions were approved at the Curriculum and Admissions meeting and by Undergraduate Council.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Senate approve all proposed major modifications to existing programs, as well as the admissions revisions recommended by the Undergraduate Council, for inclusion in the 2025-2026 Undergraduate Calendar, as circulated.

The motion was **Carried**.

1. Arts & Science Program

Motion:

that the Senate approve the establishment of the new Combined Honours Option: Arts & Science and Health and Society (Mental Health and Addiction Specialization) as a major modification to the Combined Honours in Arts & Science and Another Subject and the Honours Health and Society Specialization in Mental Health and Addiction, for inclusion in the 2025-2026 Undergraduate Calendar, as circulated.

Approved by Omnibus motion.

Motion:

that the Senate approve the establishment of the Combined Honours in Arts & Science and Work and Labour Studies as a major modification to the Combined Honours in Arts & Science and Another Subject and the Combined Honours in Work and Labour Studies and Another Subject, for inclusion in the 2025-2026 Undergraduate Calendar, and as circulated.

Approved by Omnibus motion.

2. Faculty of Social Sciences

Motion :

that the Senate approve the establishment of the Honours Anthropology Co-op (B.A.) as a major modification to the Honours Anthropology (B.A.), for inclusion in the 2025-2026 Undergraduate Calendar, as circulated.

Approved by Omnibus motion.

Motion:

that the Senate approve the establishment of the Honours Economics (B.A.) – Accelerated Option as a major modification to the Honours Economics (B.A.), for inclusion in the 2025-2026 Undergraduate Calendar, and as circulated.

Approved by Omnibus motion.

Motion:

that the Senate approve the establishment of the Honours Environment & Society Co-op (B.A.) as a major modification to the Honours Environment & Society (B.A.), for inclusion in the 2025-2026 Undergraduate Calendar, and as circulated.

Approved by Omnibus motion.

Motion:

that the Senate approve the establishment of the Honours Aging and Society Co-op (B.A.) as a major modification to the Honours Aging and Society (B.A.), for inclusion in the 2025-2026 Undergraduate Calendar, and as circulated.

Approved by Omnibus motion.

Motion:

that the Senate approve, the establishment of the Honours Health and Society Co-op (B.A.) as a major modification to the Honours Health and Society (B.A.), for inclusion in the 2025-2026 Undergraduate Calendar, and as circulated.

Approved by Omnibus motion.

Motion:

that the Senate approve the establishment of the Honours Sociology Co-op (B.A.) as a major modification to the Honours Sociology (B.A.), for inclusion in the 2025-2026 Undergraduate Calendar, and as circulated.

Approved by Omnibus motion.

Motion:

that the Senate approve the revisions to Faculty of Social Sciences admission requirements from secondary schools pertaining to the Honours Economics I and Honours Health & Society 1 programs, for inclusion in the 2025-2026 Undergraduate Calendar, and as circulated.

Approved by Omnibus motion.

3. Faculty of Health Sciences

Motion:

that the Senate approve the revisions to Faculty of Health Sciences' admission requirements, for inclusion in the 2025-2026 Undergraduate Calendar, and as circulated.

Approved by Omnibus motion.

The remainder of items were for information.

d. Program Closures

1. Canadian Health Care Certificate
2. Certificate and the Certificate of Professional Learning in Health and Social Service Skill Development

e. Curriculum Reports: Minor Curriculum Revisions for Inclusion in the 2025-2026 Undergraduate Calendar

f. Sessional Dates for 2025-2026

9. Report from the University Planning Committee

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

S. Tighe explained that at its meeting on December 4, 2024, the University Planning Committee approved the following items:

a. Name Change for CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the name change of the CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research to the CanChild Centre for Childhood-Onset Disability Research.

The motion was **Carried**.

b. Program Closures

1. Canadian Health Care Certificate
2. Health and Social Service Skill Development Certificate and Certificate of Professional Learning
3. Graduate Diploma in Critical Leadership in Social Services and Communities

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the closure of the Canadian Health Care Certificate, the closure of the Health and Social Service Skill Development Certificate and Certificate of Professional Learning, and the closure of the Graduate Diploma in Critical Leadership in Social Services and Communities, as circulated.

The motion was **Carried**.

The remainder of items were for information.

c. New Non-Academic Microcredential Programs

10. Report from the Committee on Appointments

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

J. Papillon explained that a joint drafting committee reviewed the role and responsibilities of Faculty Association Observers through various university policies. The drafting committee recommended that a new policy be established and that the related policies be superseded or revised to reflect the new policy.

The new policy makes having an observer present at a hearing the default setting, although the faculty member can decline that if they wish or decline the circulation of hearing materials to the observer. The new policy also codifies an existing practice to allow several observers to participate in a hearing.

The new policy and revisions to other relevant policies were presented to Senate last May and 2 concerns were raised. The first item in the materials is a memo to SCA dated November 15 that outlines those concerns and how they have been resolved. J. Papillon noted that a definition was revised and that MUFA Executive did not support lifting the confidentiality clause.

At the SCA meeting on November 25, all the materials were reviewed and minor edits were made that are now included in the materials before Senate. There are 4 motions to establish the new policy which will supersede SPS D2 and SPS D3, and to revise 3 other policies to reflect the new policy. An omnibus motion to approve everything together has been suggested.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the establishment of the Faculty Association Observers at Hearings Policy and the resultant effects to the five associated statements and policies as circulated, effective January 1, 2025.

The motion was **Carried**.

a. Establishment of the Faculty Association Observers at Hearings Policy and Policy Revisions

1. Memo to SCA – November 25, 2024
2. Memo to SCA – May 6, 2024
3. Email from MUFA President June 20, 2024
4.
 - i. Faculty Association Observers at Hearings track changes
 - ii. Faculty Association Observers at Hearings clean copy
5. SPS D2 - Faculty Association Observers at Appeal Tribunal Hearings - to be superseded
6. SPS D3 - Faculty Association Observers at Removal Hearings – to be superseded

Motion:

that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the establishment of the Faculty Association Observers at Hearings Policy, which supersedes SPS D2 - Faculty Association Observers at Appeal Tribunal Hearings and SPS D3 - Faculty Association Observers at Removal Proceedings, effective January 1, 2025.

Approved by Omnibus motion.

7. Faculty Grievance Policy - 2021 - UPDATED to remove observers

Motion:

that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the revisions to the Faculty Grievance Policy that include the removal of Appendix B: Faculty Association Observers at Hearings, effective January 1, 2025, as circulated.

Approved by Omnibus motion.

8. Code of Conduct for Faculty and Procedure for Disciplinary Action - 1994 - UPDATED to remove observers

Motion:

that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the revisions to the Code of Conduct for Faculty and Procedures for taking Disciplinary Action, that include the removal of Appendix B: Guidelines Concerning the Appointment and Department of Observers at Faculty Disciplinary Hearings, effective January 1, 2025, as circulated.

Approved by Omnibus motion.

9. Research Integrity Policy - 2017

Motion:

that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the revisions to the Research Integrity Policy, that include the removal of Appendix D: Association Observers at Hearings, effective January 1, 2025, as circulated.

Approved by Omnibus motion.

b. Terms of Reference

1. Revised Terms of Reference – Vice-President, Research

The Selection Committee for the Vice-President Research has reviewed the Terms of Reference and has recommended several changes that are now being brought forward for approval. The Committee on Appointments added the Vice-Provost, Indigenous to the Terms of Reference.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the revised terms of reference for the Vice-President, Research, effective July 1, 2025, as circulated.

The motion was **Carried**.

11. Report from the Committee on Student Affairs

a. Student Affairs 2023-2024 Annual Report

This report was for information.

12. Other Business

a. Presentation on Global Nexus

Matthew Miller, *Executive Director, Global Nexus*, provided a presentation on Global Nexus.

M. Miller explained that Nexus is a McMaster-based health innovation accelerator designed to transform how the modern university catalyzes the translation of health-related discoveries into tangible new health solutions. The goal at Nexus is to link great work with outside partners and to speed up the impact on the outside world. Members were provided with an overview of current projects and initiatives as well as recent funding news.

P. O'Byrne thanked M. Miller for his leadership in this development, which is both inspiring and thoughtful.

D. Farrar thanked M. Miller for the presentation.

There was no other business.