

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE

VOL.CXXI

Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., Council Chambers, Gilmour Hall 111

PRESENT: David Farrar (Chair), Ahmed Abdalla, Maxwell Altman, Nathan Andrews, Hfsa Awan, James Benn, Kusum Bhatta, Mark Boda, Dina Brooks, Lorraine Carter, Narat Charupat, Kim Dej, Wael El-Dakhakhni, Paul Faure, Saher Fazilat, Carlos Filipe, Faiza Hirji, Saara Greene, Khaled Hassanein, Steve Hranilovic, Jeremiah Hurley, Suleiman Igdoura, Alfonso Iorio, Manish Kacker, Andy Knights, Sarrah Lal, Siying Lu, Graeme Luke, Maureen MacDonald, John Medcof, Rick Monture, Paul O'Byrne, Brenda O'Connor, Heva Olfman, Joëlle Papillon, Pau Pujolas, Heather Sheardown, Dennis Souder, Stephanie Springgay, Pamela Swett, Susan Tighe, Brenda Vrkljan, Mark Walton, Zimo Wang, Renae Watchman, Margaret Zanel, Eugenia Zuroski, Andrea Thyret-Kidd (*University Secretary*), Michelle Zheng (*Associate University Secretary*), Alysha Sless (*Assistant University Secretary*)

REGRETS: Paul Andrews, Claudia Emerson, Lili Litwin, Sanamdeep Matharu, Michael McGillion, Kalai Saravanamuttu, Chris Sinding

OBSERVERS: Catherine Anderson, Carolyn Brendon, Rosa da Silva, Andrea Farquhar, Matheus Grasselli, Bonny Ibhawoh, Vivian Lewis, Jack Mah, Elisabeth Marquis, Dawn Martin-Hill, Melissa Pool, Sarah Robinson, Sean Van Koughnett, Barrington Walker, Rob Walters

OPEN SESSION

David Farrar welcomed members to the meeting and 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 he recently had the opportunity to visit the Gathering Place on the Six Nations for the "We Will Take Care of Mother Earth" Traditional Ecological Knowledge Summit. The purpose of the summit was to continue conversations between Indigenous communities and the McMaster community about ways to bring together Indigenous traditional knowledge and western scientific knowledge to address the issue of climate change. D. Farrar was struck by the positivity of the interactions and discussions and is confident there will be some real movement in this area. There was also some excellent discussion about the ways in which Six Nations, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Six Nations Polytechnic, and McMaster can continue to work together.

Yesterday it was announced that Fusion Pharmaceuticals, a McMaster spin-off company that develops next-generation precision cancer medications and is located at McMaster Innovation Park, was purchased by pharmaceutical giant, AstraZeneca, for \$2.4B (US). D. Farrar invited Maureen MacDonald, *Dean, Faculty of Science*, to comment further. M. MacDonald explained that Fusion Pharmaceuticals was acquired by AstraZeneca and it is one of the highest-valued acquisitions of a Canadian university spinout company. John Valliant, *Professor, Chemistry and Chemical Biology*, is the founder and lead, studies radio pharmaceuticals and is located on the McMaster campus. AstraZeneca said they are pleased J. Valliant has a current faculty position and will continue to support that. M. MacDonald congratulated J. Valliant.

D. Farrar announced a new partnership between McMaster and Celesta Capital – a deep technology venture capital firm, co-founded by McMaster graduate, Nicholas Brathwaite. Celesta will support McMaster start-ups and researchers in commercializing their intellectual property, and facilitate opportunities with venture capital hubs in Canada, Silicon Valley, India and beyond. The partnership will also provide access to emerging companies, co-judged pitch competitions, mentorship for entrepreneurs, ecosystem development and advice on intellectual property strategies and invention optimization. This is a new model of cooperation between a venture capital fund and a public university, and D. Farrar noted excitement to see what new opportunities emerge for our students and researchers.

D. Farrar advised that our University Secretary and Privacy Officer, Andrea Thyret-Kidd is a recipient of a 2023 TMG Peer-to-Peer Award in the area of “Develops People”. This award is unique in that recipients are nominated by their TMG colleagues for their outstanding work and exemplary leadership capabilities. Members congratulated A. Thyret-Kidd.

At its March 7th meeting, the Board received the McMaster Museum of Art Annual Report along with reports related to Health, Safety & Well-being, Pension Plans and Investment Pool. Dean Jerry Hurley provided a presentation on the Faculty of Social Sciences before the Board focused on financial reports. The Board also approved the recommendation of the Senate on the re-appointment of our Dean of Humanities, Pamela Swett. During her first term as Dean, P. Swett led the creation of the Faculty of Humanities’ first-ever strategic plan. She has also been involved with the development and launch of significant interdisciplinary programs, including the Bachelor of Health Science in Integrated Rehabilitation Science and Humanities, and the Integrated Arts (iArts) program. P. Swett helped secure the \$50 million gift that created the Wilson College of Leadership and Civic Engagement, and continues to help lead the college’s development. She also served as the academic lead for the Future of Canada Project. D. Farrar and members congratulated P. Swett on her re-appointment.

D. Farrar shared an interesting story from the McMaster Library. Many maps featured in Stephen Spielberg’s new AppleTV+ series Masters of the Air are from the McMaster University Library. The Lloyd Reeds Maps Collection contains the largest online collection of World War One and World War Two maps in the world. McMaster’s maps have also appeared in many other productions.

A group joined the Senate meeting to highlight their concerns about the war in Gaza and the impact on the educational systems. The group provided members with a handout of their requests and read a memo to the members. The group asked the Senate to join in the demand for a boycott of collaborations with Israel universities. D. Farrar thanked the group and noted that the Senate had heard their powerful statement.

Senators were informed that the Secretariat is looking for two scrutineers to verify the results of the 2024 spring elections. Elections will be held March 19-21, 2024, with the tabulation of results to be held Friday, March 22, 2024. Interested individuals are asked to please email senate@mcmaster.ca.

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 March 20, 2024 and that item 2 be approved by Consent.

The motion was **Carried**.

CONSENT

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of February 14, 2024 – Open Session

Motion:

that the minutes of the Open Session of the meeting held on February 14, 2024 be approved as circulated.

Approved by Consent.

REGULAR

3. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

4. Enquiries

There were no enquiries.

5. Communications

1. Report from the Provost

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

S. Tighe invited Robert Cockcroft, *Director, William J. McCallion Planetarium and Secretary, Canadian Astronomical Society*, to provide an update on the April 8, 2024 eclipse. Thanks to funding from the Provost and Dean of Science, 600,000 pairs of glasses have been distributed. R. Cockcroft advised that there will be two events held, one on April 7 which will consist of a panel event with Indigenous colleagues and another on April 8 which will be the eclipse viewing party.

S. Tighe provided an overview of the Blue Ribbon Panel and an update on the budget process. Regarding the budget, S. Tighe noted that they are looking at reducing expenses, cost containment and alternative revenue sources. McMaster is in good shape relative to other institutions. More will be known on March 31 when Ontario announces the plan for international students. S. Tighe noted that they are trying to develop a process that guarantees that any international student that confirms they want to attend McMaster will receive an attestation

letter. It is a complicated process and there are unknowns of what happens if a student accepts an offer in another province.

The Task Force on Graduate Funding report has been submitted to the Provost. S. Tighe thanked Steve Hranilovic, *Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies*, and the students that participated. It was a collaborative process and the process of implementing recommendations has begun. S. Tighe provided an overview of the Indigenous student bursary program and the internships in Ghana and Liberia.

Questions were asked regarding unfunded students, how money will be allocated, and whether the federal government can organize the attestation letters. S. Tighe explained that at this time it is unknown how money will be allocated but the Budget Committee is currently engaged in this work. S. Tighe noted that the visa situation is a highly political matter partially due to the housing crisis being linked with international students, and acknowledged the work done by the government relations team.

This item was for information.

6. Report from Graduate Council

S. Hranilovic presented the report.

S. Hranilovic explained that at its meeting on February 13, 2024, Graduate Council approved the following changes:

1. Curriculum Revisions

a. Faculty of Humanities

Graduate Council approved a change to the remove Syracuse University as a participating institution for the Master of Communication Management program. There is no impact to the PLOs and Quality Council has been informed. Students admitted in 2023 will no longer have a notation on their diploma that the degree was in partnership with Syracuse University.

Revisions to the parchment for this program will go before the Ceremonials and Insignia Committee next month.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Senate approve the curriculum revisions, for inclusion in the 2024-2025 *Graduate Calendar*, as circulated.

The motion was **Carried**.

2. 2024-2025 Sessional Dates

This item was for information.

7. Report from Undergraduate Council

Kim Dej, *Chair of Undergraduate Council*, presented the report.

The following items were for information:

1. Terms of Award
2. Closure of two Certificate of Professional Learning Programs
3. Minor Curriculum Revisions and Calendar Submissions for Inclusion in the 2024-2025 Undergraduate Calendar
4. Revisions to the Policy on Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work

K. Dej provided an overview of the Policy on Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work and the work of the ad hoc committee. K. Dej noted that the changes proposed at the Senate last year generated concerns that have now been addressed. The policy does have limitations and the focus is to move students away from using MSAF as a time management tool. K. Dej noted that there are examples of successful universal designs, such as extending time for all students, which has led to a decrease in the use of MSAF.

Undergraduate Council will be approving the policy on March 26, 2024, and Senators are welcome to provide feedback up until this date. Feedback can be submitted by email to ugc@mcmaster.ca. The Senate will be asked to approve the final version of this revised policy at its meeting on April 10, 2024.

A member asked whether the policy will be sent to Joint Committee for approval as they felt it effects faculty workload. K. Dej advised that the revisions were sent to MUFA and S. Tighe advised that it has not been sent back to Joint Committee as that is not the normal process. Andrea Thyret-Kidd, *University Secretary*, clarified that approval of the policy is through Undergraduate Council to the Senate. S. Tighe advised that with MUFA's agreement the policy can be sent to Joint Committee for discussion.

8. Report from the Executive Committee**1. Persona Non Grata Declarations Policy**

D. Farrar explained that at the meeting on January 31, 2024, the Senate Executive Committee received and discussed the Persona Non Grata (PNG) Declarations Policy. D. Farrar explained the history of this item and thanked Paul Andrews, Claudia Emerson, Alfonzo Iorio and Heva Olfman for their hard work, and noted that it is important that we have good policies, and their revisions will improve the policy.

The Senate Executive Committee discussed the revisions on January 31 and suggested an addition that was accepted and appears as item #12. The policy is being shared with the Senate for information and has also been shared with the appropriate Board Committee. D. Farrar advised that once the consultation process is complete the President and Vice-Presidents (PVP) group will be invited to approve the policy.

A. Iorio was invited to outline the revisions. A. Iorio explained that the Committee looked at the policy, health and safety, and security. The goal for the policy is to ensure safety on campus. The Committee felt it was important to distinguish when a PNG is a temporary measure. They also ensured there was no impact on academic freedom or freedom of speech. A. Iorio noted that the policy is meant to regulate campus life for health and safety. The Committee also added a confidentiality aspect.

A member requested further clarification on the reservations noted by one of the Committee members and for clarification around the approval process. D. Farrar clarified the approval process and A. Iorio explained that the Committee was not unanimous around the mandate for the Committee as one member suggested making it a Senate policy. The other reservation was in regard to the assessment of violence or threat, and the risk assessment process that is conducted by trained professionals. One committee member disagreed with the level of detail provided to the individual who is declared PNG.

A member brought up a PNG case from a previous year and asked about student representation. D. Farrar explained that the Student Code of Conduct is where student matters are dealt with. This policy is a response to an immediate situation that is a threat to the University or community.

This item was for information.

9. Report from the University Planning Committee

S. Tighe presented the report.

1. Closure of Two Certificate of Professional Learning Programs

S. Tighe explained that at its meeting on March 6, 2024 the University Planning Committee approved the closure of two Certificate of Professional Learning Programs in Intercultural Competency (ICL) and Foundations in Workplace Intercultural Competency & Communication.

- a. Closure of the Intercultural Competency (ICL) Program
- b. Closure of the Foundations in Workplace Intercultural Competency & Communication Program

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Senate approve the closure of the Certificates of Professional Learning Programs in Intercultural Competency (ICL), and in Foundations in Workplace Intercultural Competency & Communication, as circulated.

The motion was Carried.

10. Report from the Committee on Appointments

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

J. Papillon explained that at its meeting on February 26, 2024, the Committee on Appointments approved the following recommendation and now recommends it to Senate for approval:

1. Terms of Reference

a. Establishment of the Vice-Provost, Indigenous

J. Papillon invited S. Tighe to speak to the item. S. Tighe noted that it is a monumental day to bring forward the terms of reference. It has been a collaborative and highly consultative process. S. Tighe invited Dawn Martin-Hill, *Academic Co-Chair, Indigenous Education Council*, Bernice Downey, *Associate Dean, Indigenous Health*, and Mark Hill, *Community Co-Chair, Indigenous Education Council*, to speak to the item.

D. Martin-Hill explained that there is a history of inclusion at McMaster and that the change is great to see. The idea of the Vice-Provost, Indigenous was not embraced immediately due to fear of the past and colonialism. There needs to be someone at the senior level to champion initiatives and provide more engagement. It is exciting to have a champion to take it to the next level and address clean water, climate change, and initiatives that cannot happen without leadership and support.

M. Hill advised that he is the current community co-chair and the former elected Chief of Grand River. M. Hill addressed the belt above the Council Chambers door and noted that it is an important reminder of relationships. Council and the membership had discussions around the role and will continue to bridge relationships.

B. Downey acknowledged colleagues in the room including Rick Monture and D. Martin-Hill, as well as leadership including D. Farrar, S. Tighe, Jerry Hurley and Paul O'Byrne. B. Downey noted that work is happening in individual Faculties as well and this is an opportunity to bring work together. B. Downey acknowledged Randy Jackson, the former co-chair, under who's leadership the strategy was developed.

S. Tighe asked Joint Indigenous Administrative Consultative Group members to stand and be recognized.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the establishment of the Vice-Provost, Indigenous, as circulated.

D. Farrar noted that it is an important step forward and having a senior leader makes a big difference.

The motion was **Carried**; 1 opposed.

11. Report from the Committee on Honorary Degrees

D. Farrar presented the report on behalf of the Chancellor.

At its meeting on February 29, 2024 and via electronic Vote on March 8, 2024, the Committee on Honorary Degrees approved the following recommendations and now recommends them to Senate for approval:

1. Terms of Reference – Committee on Honorary Degrees

The revisions include a change in the membership to provide better representation across all areas of the University.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Senate approve in principle, the proposed revisions to the Committee on Honorary Degrees Terms of Reference and refer the revisions to the By-Laws Committee for review.

A member asked for clarification around approval in principle and suggested that that under members, it should be specified that the faculty are Senators. A. Thyret-Kidd explained that the Senate approves the item in principle, and it is then sent to the By-Laws Committee for review and approval. It is then brought back to the Senate for final approval.

The motion was **Carried**.

2. Guidelines for the Awarding of Honorary Degrees Policy Revisions

The revisions include clarity for who can receive an Honorary Degree, removes the Doctor of Divinity Honorary Degree as it is no longer awarded by McMaster, and limits the time a nomination can remain on the cumulative list.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Senate approve the proposed revisions for the Guidelines for the Awarding of Honorary Degrees Policy, as circulated.

The motion was **Carried**.

12. Report from the Committee on Student Affairs

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

1. Terms of Reference – Committee on Student Affairs

At its meeting on December 6, 2023, the Committee on Student Affairs reviewed and approved the revised terms of reference for the Committee on Student Affairs. The current terms of reference are outdated and do not reflect the nature of the Committee. The revisions broaden the scope to include subject matters such as housing, transportation, and equity.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Senate approve in principle, the proposed revisions to the Committee on Student Affairs Terms of Reference and refer the revisions to the By-Laws Committee for review.

The motion was **Carried**.

2. Student Case Management Office (SCM) – Annual Report

At its meeting on February 28, 2024, the Committee on Student Affairs received the annual report from the Student Case Management Office (SCM). This is the first annual report since 2018/19. The office has shifted to proactive interventions to help students facing barriers meet success. SCM has taken the opportunity to provide meaningful assistance to students before their individual circumstances worsen, both academically and personally. The office has been able to engage with at-risk students earlier than in the past due to a well-established referral process.

S. Van Koughnett commended Tim Cameron, *Director, Student Case Management Office*, and his staff. The office was established out of the Student Mental Health and Well Being Strategy in 2016. The office has taken an educative and restorative approach and is being proactive to address complex situations. S. Van Koughnett noted that there has been an increase in complexity and numbers continue to rise and the office is well positioned to deal with situations.

It was clarified that Student Senators are members of the Committee, there is not an election.

This item was for information.

13. Other Business

1. Wilson College Presentation

J. Hurley, *Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences*, and P. Swett, *Dean, Faculty of Humanities*, provided a presentation on Wilson College.

This item was for information.