

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE

VOL. CXXVIII

Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., Council Chambers, Gilmour Hall Room 111

PRESENT: David Farrar (Chair), Maxwell Altman, Sonia Anand, James Benn, Kusum Bhatta, Mark Boda, Blaise Bourdin, Narat Charupat, Juanita Debarros, Kim Dej, Arlene Dosen, Mohamed Ezzeldin, Saher Fazilat, David Feinberg, Carlos Filipe, Omolade George, Saara Greene, Khaled Hassanein, Faiza Hirji, Steve Hranilovic, Jialiang Hu, Jeremiah Hurley, Suleiman Igdoura, Alfonso Iorio, Manish Kacker, Andy Knights, Graeme Luke, Neil McLaughlin, Alex Mouriopoulos, Cameron Nolan, Paul O’Byrne, Olakunle Ologun, Joëlle Papillon, Tracy Prowse, Stacey Ritz, Rachelle Sabourin, Shahram Shirani, Dennis Souder, Pamela Swett, Susan Tighe, Brenda Vrkljan, Zimo Wang, Kerry Yang, Margaret Zanel, Andrea Thyret-Kidd (*University Secretary*), Michelle Zheng (*Associate University Secretary*), Alysha Sless (*Assistant University Secretary*)

REGRETS: Paul Andrews, Hfsa Awan, Dina Brooks, Lili Litwin, Sue McCracken, Michael McGillion, Gianni Parise, Kalai Saravanamuttu, Heather Sheardown, Renae Watchman, Jeff Weitz, Eugenia Zuroski

OBSERVERS: Carolyn Brendon, Sandra Carroll, Andrea Farquhar, Martin Horn, Priya John, Vivian Lewis, Elisabeth Marquis, Melissa Pool, Sean Van Koughnett, Barrington Walker, Rob Walters

OPEN SESSION

Opening Remarks

David Farrar, *President & Vice-Chancellor*, welcomed everyone 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 explained that last week, we learned of the passing of Murray Sinclair. Senator Sinclair’s work had a tremendous impact on our country and on our campus. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) empowered Indigenous peoples to tell their stories after decades of being silenced, bringing to light the terrible abuses of Canada’s residential school system. The TRC’s calls to action continue to guide Canada and McMaster’s ongoing journey towards Truth and Reconciliation. Senator Sinclair also made a very poignant remark about the important role that education plays in reconciliation: “Education got us into this mess and education will get us out of it.”

D. Farrar introduced and welcomed two new members of Senate:

Faculty of Engineering: Mohamed Ezzeldin
Alumni Representative: Cameron Nolan

D. Farrar noted that in collaboration with our Public Affairs team, the university leadership continues to spend significant time advancing our government relations strategy. This involves building relationships with all three levels of government; advocating for McMaster's priorities and the needs of the higher education sector; and proactively positioning McMaster as an advisor on government objectives that align with the university's strategic priorities. Last week the focus was on visiting government officials in Toronto and Ottawa. Along with the Provost, members of PVP, and the Public Affairs team, D. Farrar visited Queen's Park as part of McMaster's Annual Queen's Park Day. They held good discussions with the new Minister of Colleges & Universities, the Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, and officials from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health, as well as the Premier's Office.

Last Monday, D. Farrar was in Ottawa for a U15 meeting and also had the opportunity to meet with several Conservative MPs who hold shadow minister positions. D. Farrar noted that it was interesting to talk with them about research, innovation, and commercialization. The MPs had questions about how to encourage more research commercialization as a contributor to Canada's GDP, and options to allow start-ups to expand their footprint in Canada.

At a previous Senate meeting, Senators were advised of the upcoming discussions with the provincial government around the Strategic Mandate Agreement version 4 (SMA4). The initial meeting with Ministry officials will take place next week. As in previous years, this process will be led by the Provost's Office and updates will be provided as the process unfolds.

At the October 24 Board of Governors meeting, the Board reviewed and approved the University's Financial Statements and Annual Financial Report. The Annual Financial Report reaffirmed that McMaster is positioned for a break-even budget at a time when many other Ontario universities are projecting deficits. This is a reflection of years of prudent financial management and the McMaster community's careful attention to managing costs. While the inflationary pressures and funding levels we are facing are expected to remain challenging, this prudent management means that, where there are opportunities, we can continue to make strategic financial investments to advance McMaster's teaching and research mission. As an example, at the same meeting, the Board approved a critically important capital project to renovate the Life Sciences Building. The Board also approved the recommendation to appoint Dr. Susan Tighe as McMaster's next President, effective July 1, 2025. D. Farrar added that this is an excellent appointment, and he is looking forward to working with Dr. Tighe over the coming months to ensure a smooth transition. D. Farrar congratulated S. Tighe.

Senators were provided with a brief update on two more important searches that are currently underway. The Vice-President, Research selection committee has been meeting and is on track to advertise the position by the end of this month. The Committee has engaged in a broad consultation process and is open to ongoing feedback as the search progresses. Community members are welcome to provide feedback through an online survey, which can be found on the Daily News, or send a message to the selection committee via the Secretariat. The Provost Selection Committee has also been struck and will begin meeting shortly. Once again there will be opportunities for feedback and community consultation as the process gets underway.

McMaster's fall convocation ceremonies will take place on November 20 and 21. Convocation is always an exciting time for our graduates and their families. D. Farrar encouraged faculty members to show their support for our students by joining the academic procession and participating in the ceremonies.

D. Farrar congratulated Megumi Harada, professor of Mathematics and Statistics, who was recently named a Fellow of the American Mathematical Society.

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 November 13, 2024 and that items 2 through 4 be approved or received by Consent.

The motion was **Carried**.

CONSENT

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – October 9, 2024 (Open Session)

Motion:

that the minutes of the Open Session of the meeting held on October 9, 2024 be approved as circulated.

Approved by Consent.

3. Report from the University Planning Committee

a. Report from the DeGroote School of Business

Received by Consent.

4. Committee on Appointments**a. Terms of Reference**

1. Revised Terms of Reference – Director, Engineering & Society Program

Motion:

that Senate approve the revised terms of reference for the Director, Engineering & Society Program, as circulated.

Approved by Consent.

REGULAR**5. Business Arising**

There was no business arising.

6. Enquiries

There were no enquiries.

7. Communications

There were no communications.

8. Report from Graduate Council

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

S. Hranilovic explained that at its meeting on October 22, 2024, Graduate Council approved the following items:

a. New Graduate Diploma

1. Global Surgery: Surgical Care Systems & Health Equity

S. Hranilovic explained that it is a four course program completed online and there is only one other program in Canada. It is scheduled to start in September 2025. S. Hranilovic noted that Sonia Anand, Deborah DiLiberto, and Esther Chin developed the curriculum and were in attendance to answer any questions.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Senate approve the establishment of the Graduate Diploma in Global Surgery: Surgical Care Systems & Health Equity, as circulated.

In response to a question regarding graduate diplomas and Master's, S. Hranilovic explained that degrees are credentials approved by Quality Council.

A member asked how we will ensure that students and practitioners with low income can access the program. S. Anand explained that they found a reasonable price point and understand that it is still costly. They are exploring a pay forward program and donating towards international student tuition.

The motion was **Carried**.

b. New Non-Academic Microcredentials in Health Technology Assessment

1. Health Technology Assessment

S. Hranilovic explained that it is a sequence of six different microcredentials and is nonacademic.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Senate approve the establishment of the following non-academic microcredentials in Health Technology Assessments, as circulated.

In response to a question regarding non-academic microcredentials, S. Hranilovic explained a non-academic microcredential does not go towards an academic degree or program.

The motion was **Carried**.

The remainder of items were for information.

c. New Awards

1. The Anne Pitul Memorial Award

9. Report from Undergraduate Council

This report was for information. Kim Dej, *Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning*, noted her delight for the net increase in awards and directed members to the last page of the report which included testimonials from students who received bursaries and awards.

a. Terms of Award

1. Proposed New Awards
2. Changes to Award Terms
3. Proposed New Bursaries

4. Changes Due to Faculty/Program/Plan Name Changes
5. Awards Removed from the Undergraduate Calendar

b. Annual Reports from the Office of the Registrar, Aid and Awards

10. Report from the University Planning Committee

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

a. Proposal for the Establishment of the Mary Heersink School of Global Health and Social Medicine

S. Tighe explained that at its meeting on October 30, 2024, the University Planning Committee reviewed and approved the proposal for the Establishment of the Mary Heersink School of Global Health and Social Medicine.

Sonia Anand, *Associate Vice-President, Global Health*, provided an overview of the proposal. S. Anand explained that they have a large graduate program at McMaster with 117 Master's students and 29 Ph.D. students. There are nine international partners where students learn in a virtual setting with peers at partner institutions, and they get to do an exchange in their second semester. S. Anand noted they are moving from a program to a school, which provides an opportunity to create new programs and increase attention to humanitarian teaching and work.

In response to a question regarding integration with social medicine, S. Anand explained that there is some internal medicine. And they are working with the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine.

P. O'Byrne added that there is immense enthusiasm in the Faculty of Health Sciences and noted that the individuals involved have brought strong research, credentials, and faculty. A generous gift has allowed for the school to be named, and it will be a great success.

Members noted they were impressed by the proposal and asked whether there was a productive health element and whether there were plans to have a graduate degree under the School. S. Anand explained that they have a strong partnership with Midwifery and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Chin is also building in more internal child health research. S. Anand noted that they have not delved into a graduate degree yet. They are working with the Arts and Science program this year to offer a seminar course and will observe the interest amongst students.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the establishment of the Mary Heersink School of Global Health and Social Medicine, effective January 1, 2025.

The motion was **Carried**.

The remainder of items were for information.

b. Graduate Diploma in Global Surgery: Surgical Care Systems and Health Equity

c. Non-Academic Microcredential in Health Technology Assessment

11. Report from the Committee on By-Laws

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

a. Amendments to the Faculty of Humanities By-Laws

S. Greene explained that Senate accepted Notice of Motion for the amendments to the Faculty of Humanities By-Laws at its meeting on September 11, 2024.

At its meeting on October 2, 2024, the Committee on By-Laws reviewed and recommended that Senate approve the amendments to the Faculty of Humanities By-Laws.

The Committee made some additional revisions around clarification of the Nominating Committee, clarification to Graduate students under the Student Members section, clarification and revisions to elections, and a revision to keep the Secretary of Senate on the General Faculty Committee.

It was duly moved and seconded,

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

The motion was **Carried**.

12. Other Business

a. Senate Board for Student Appeals (SBSA) Presentation

Michelle MacDonald, *Chair of the Senate Board for Student Appeals & Associate Professor, Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences*, provided a

presentation on the appeal procedures available to students and the work of the Senate Board for Student Appeals Committee.

There was no other business.