

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE  
VOL. CXXVI**

Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., Council Chambers, Gilmour Hall Room 111

**PRESENT:** David Farrar (Chair), Maxwell Altman, Sonia Anand, Paul Andrews, Hfsa Awan, James Benn, Dina Brooks, Kim Dej, Arlene Dosen, Claudia Emerson, David Feinberg, Omolade George, James Gillett, Khaled Hassanein, Steve Hranilovic, Jialiang Hu, Jeremiah Hurley, Suleiman Igdoura, Alfonso Iorio, Manish Kacker, Lili Litwin, Graeme Luke, Sanamdeep Matharu, Sue McCracken, Michael McGillion, Neil McLaughlin, Alex Mourtiopoulos, Paul O'Byrne, Joëlle Papillon, Tracy Prowse, Kalai Saravanamuttu, Heather Sheardown, Shahram Shirani, Dennis Souder, Pamela Swett, Susan Tighe, Brenda Vrkljan, Zimo Wang, Renae Watchman, Kerry Yang, Margaret Zanel, Andrea Thyret-Kidd (*University Secretary*), Michelle Zheng (*Associate University Secretary*), Alysha Sless (*Assistant University Secretary*)

**REGRETS:** Blaise Bourdin, Lorraine Carter, Narat Charupat, Juanita Debarros, Saher Fazilat, Saara Greene, Faiza Hirji, Andy Knights, Gianni Parise, Stacey Ritz, Rachelle Sabourin

**OBSERVERS:** Carolyn Brendon, Sandra Carroll, Rosa da Silva, Darran Fernandez, Matheus Grasselli, Martin Horn, Bonny Ibhawoh, Elisabeth Marquis, Melissa Pool, Sean Van Koughnett, Barrington Walker, Rob Walters, Sarah Wojkowski

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**OPEN SESSION**

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 advised that the audio from the open session of Senate meetings will be livestreamed on YouTube, starting today. This was a decision made by the Senate Executive, as reported in the meeting materials, and is to allow greater transparency and access as the seating in the Council Room is limited. The livestream can be accessed through the University Secretariat website.

D. Farrar recognized that this past year has been complex and painful for many on our campus, particularly for members of our Palestinian, Muslim and Jewish and Israeli communities. We have heard directly that members of our community are experiencing a range of emotions including fear, anguish, grief, anxiety and frustration. D. Farrar asked all members of the McMaster community to consider how we can demonstrate empathy,

understanding and compassion for one another and our commitment to inclusive excellence and encouraged anyone who may need assistance to reach out to the many resources available at the university.

D. Farrar highlighted several important priorities for the year ahead including:

- The negotiation of the next Strategic Mandate Agreement, SMA4, with the provincial government. Only initial information has been shared to date, so further details are awaited so that we can understand the full implications of this for our University.
- Linked to this, as Senators will have seen, the federal government recently announced changes that include an additional 10% reduction in international study permits over the current level. Unlike the last international student cap, which only applied to undergraduate students, the rules will now apply to graduate students as well. D. Farrar advised that they are waiting to learn more about how this news will impact McMaster. The 10% reduction is a national figure, and provincial and institutional allocations have not yet been communicated. This is a significant concern for all of us. McMaster is a global university where international students are an integral part of our community. We are following this issue closely and working with sector associations and with government partners to continue advocating for the interests of our students and our institution.
- Focus on delivering a balanced budget that will ensure funding for strategic priority areas.
- Exploring additional affordable housing options for students.
- Developing the programs offered through the Wilson College for Leadership and Civic Engagement, including preparations to welcome the inaugural undergraduate cohort next September.
- The development of the Nexus School for Pandemic Prevention and Response and expanding the Heersink School of Biomedical Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
- Expanding and strengthening our collaboration with international partners. The Vice Provost (International) is finishing the work on a new 5-year International strategic plan which will help guide our collaborations; and
- Preparations are ongoing for the public launch of our university-wide fundraising campaign. A key focus for this year will be meeting with our alumni and donors across North America and beyond.

D. Farrar noted that he looks forward to making progress on these priorities in a year of transition for McMaster as he concludes his term as President.

Last week, the university hosted the first session in the new McMaster Dialogues series. This series is intended to provide an opportunity for faculty, staff and students to come together to engage in informed debate on some of the world's most pressing global issues. The theme of the discussion was Enhancing Multilateralism for International Peace and Security in a Conflicted World. It was moderated by Vice-Provost (International) Bonny Ibhawoh and included a panel of McMaster experts. It was an

extremely thought-provoking discussion, with a number of students asking very thoughtful questions on challenging issues. The session was an excellent example of how universities can provide forums for respectful and informed debate, and these types of discussions need to continue. The recording of the first session has now been posted to the Daily News.

D. Farrar acknowledged three McMaster faculty members who have been recognized in the past month for their research excellence. D. Farrar congratulated Senate colleague, Dean of Engineering, Heather Sheardown, who was one of seven extraordinary McMaster faculty to be named to the Academy of Health Sciences in September. Election to the Academy is considered among the highest honours for individuals in the Canadian health sciences community, and an outstanding accomplishment. D. Farrar also congratulated McMaster professor Deborah Cook who is being inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame in recognition of her pioneering research in critical care medicine. This is a rare honour and a testament to Dr. Cook's extraordinary leadership and contributions to improving human health. D. Farrar recognized McMaster researcher and Indigenous scholar Chelsea Gabel who is the new Scientific Director of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Institute of Indigenous Peoples' Health. This is a tremendous accomplishment and recognizes Dr. Gabel as a leader in her field and a champion of health research at the highest level.

At the end of the September Senate meeting, a Senator commented about the Student Appeals process and graduate student supervision. The Secretariat will provide an update on the Student Appeals process at our November Senate meeting, and the Dean of Graduate Students will provide an update on graduate student supervision during the Graduate Council report later in today's meeting.

D. Farrar advised that going forward, if a Senator has questions or concerns about a matter that is not listed on the agenda, they are urged to reach out to the Secretariat prior to the meeting. This allows the Secretariat to determine the appropriate manner to address the concern including whether to add it to a future Senate agenda.

Senators were reminded that an extra meeting of Senate has been planned for Wednesday, October 23 at 3:30 p.m. The Secretariat will be sending out further details and a reminder for the meeting so please watch for emails and RSVP your attendance.

Senators were informed that that the Secretariat is looking for two scrutineers for the University By-Elections. Scrutineers will be needed on October 25 for no more than 30 minutes.

## **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 October 9, 2024 and that items 2 and 3 be approved by Consent.

The motion was **Carried**.

### **CONSENT**

#### **2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – September 11, 2024 (Open Session)**

Motion:

**that the minutes of the Open Session of the meeting held on September 11, 2024 be approved as circulated.**

**Approved** by Consent.

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

##### **a. Terms of Reference**

1. Establishment of the Director, McMaster Centre for Research on Employment and Work (MCREW)

Motion:

**that Senate approve the establishment of the Director, McMaster Centre for Research on Employment and Work (MCREW), as circulated.**

**Approved** by Consent.

### **REGULAR**

#### **4. Business Arising**

D. Farrar explained that at the last Senate meeting a question was raised regarding the work of the Senate Board for Student Appeals. The Secretariat has arranged for the Chair of the Senate Board for Student Appeals to present at the next Senate meeting.

#### **5. Enquiries**

There were no enquiries.

#### **6. Communications**

##### **a. Ombuds Office Annual Report 2023-2024**

Carolyn Brendon, *Ombuds*, presented the report. C. Brendon provided an overview of the office which is funded jointly by the University and the McMaster Students Union (MSU), with contributions from the Graduate Students Associate (GSA). The office operates based on terms of reference approved by Senate, the Board of Governors and the MSU. The office maintains the highest level of confidentiality and an individual's identity is not revealed without consent. The Ombuds analyzes complaints objectively through the lens of administrative fairness standards which includes procedural, rational and substantive fairness. The Ombuds assists in the fair resolution of individual complaints and concerns and has the power to investigate and make recommendations, but not to decide on a matter. C. Brendon added that the circulated report includes statistics about the visitors to the office, types of issues, and assistance provided.

In response to a question regarding the recommendations from the 2023-24 Ombuds Report working groups, S. Tighe explained that the reports were recently received and have been posted to the Provost website. Progress has been made on some of the recommendations.

This item was for information.

## **7. Report from Graduate Council**

### **a. New Awards**

1. The Herman Bacchus Bursary in Biology
2. The Hodgson Family Scholarship for the Study of Languages in Religious Studies

This item was for information.

Steve Hranilovic, *Vice-Provost & Dean of Graduate Studies*, provided an update from Graduate Council. S. Hranilovic explained that they need to continue in their efforts in supporting faculty members to be effective supervisors. The development of principles for graduate supervision are important to guide the responsibilities of the University, the School of Graduate Studies, supervisors and students. S. Hranilovic noted that they are working on new training materials for supervisors and that it is important to ensure faculty members are equipped on the onset and as they progress through their career.

A member noted that in reviewing the Ombuds report, the number one issue was graduate thesis and supervision, and asked whether the actions address the types of causes that are creating this at a high rate. S. Hranilovic noted that the steps will address many of the issues and allow for it to be addressed early on.

## **8. Report from Undergraduate Council**

**a. Terms of Award**

1. Proposed New Awards
2. Changes to Award Terms
3. Proposed New Academic Grants
4. Changes to Academic Grant Terms
5. Proposed New Bursaries
6. Changes to Bursary Terms
7. Awards Removed from the Undergraduate Calendar
8. Bursaries Removed from the Undergraduate Calendar
9. Award Name Changes

**b. Revisions to Certificate and Diploma Programs**

This report was for information.

**9. Report from the University Planning Committee**

Susan Tighe, *Provost and Vice-President (Academic)*, presented the report. Martin Horn, *Acting Deputy Vice-President (Research)*, and Jonathan Sherbino, *Assistant Dean, McMaster Education Research, Innovation and Theory (MERIT)* were in attendance to answer questions.

**a. Proposal for the Establishment of the McMaster Health Research Education, Innovation and Theory Centre (MERIT)**

S. Tighe explained that at its meeting on September 18, 2024, the University Planning Committee reviewed and approved the proposal for the Establishment of the McMaster Health Research Education, Innovation and Theory Centre (MERIT).

The objectives of the McMaster Health Research Education, Innovation and Theory Centre (MERIT) are to produce world-class education research, foster a community of practice for faculty interested in education scholarship, and collaborate on education problems within the Faculty of Health Sciences, providing expertise on education theory and evidence.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the establishment of the McMaster Health Research Education, Innovation and Theory Centre (MERIT), as circulated.**

In response to a question around the financial aspects, J. Sherbino explained that the proposal does not require any additional funding and has existed as an education program in the Faculty of Health Sciences. There is support from sponsoring departments and there will be no change to the funding model or

new funding required. Paul O'Byrne, *Dean and Vice-President, Faculty of Health Sciences* added that the funding coming from the central budget has not changed and will not change.

The motion was **Carried**.

**10. Other Business**

I know of no other business.