

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE

VOL. CXXXIV

Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 3:30 p.m., via Zoom

PRESENT: David Farrar (Chair), Maxwell Altman, Sonia Anand, Paul Andrews, Hfsa Awan, James Benn, Kusum Bhatta, Mark Boda, Blaise Bourdin, Dina Brooks, Ruth Chen, Narat Charupat, Arlene Dosen, Mohamed Ezzeldin, Saher Fazilat, David Feinberg, James Gillett, Saara Greene, Khaled Hassanein, Faiza Hirji, Steve Hranilovic, Jeremiah Hurley, Suleiman Igdoura, Alfonso Iorio, Andy Knights, Graeme Luke, Sanamdeep Matharu, Sue McCracken, Michael McGillion, Neil McLaughlin, Alex Mouriopoulos, Cameron Nolan, Olakunle Ologun, Joëlle Papillon, Gianni Parise, Tracy Prowse, Stacey Ritz, Kalai Saravanamuttu, Heather Sheardown, Dennis Souder, Pamela Swett, Brenda Vrkljan, Zimo Wang, Renae Watchman, Kerry Yang, Margaret Zanel, Eugenia Zuroski, Andrea Thyret-Kidd (*University Secretary*), Michelle Zheng (*Associate University Secretary*), Alysha Sless (*Assistant University Secretary*)

REGRETS: Catherine Anderson, Juanita Debarros, Carlos Filipe, Manish Kacker, Lili Litwin, Paul O'Byrne, Rachele Sabourin, Jeff Weitz

GUESTS: Tara La Rose, *Chair, McMaster Research Ethics Board*
Manish Verma, *Associate Dean, DeGroot School of Business*
Fiona Mcneill, *Professor, Physics & Astronomy*
Caitlin Mullarkey, *Vice-Chair of Undergraduate Council*

OBSERVERS: Carolyn Brendon, Rosa da Silva, Darran Fernandez, Matheus Grasselli, Bonny Ibhawoh, Priya John, Vivian Lewis, Elisabeth Marquis, Melissa Pool, Piper Plavins, Karen Richmond, Sean Van Koughnett, Barrington Walker, Rob Walters

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 noted that as Senators will have seen from the recent message to the community, on April 27, 2025, an occupied university building was vandalized and defaced in the early hours of the morning. In addition to spray-painting targeted messages, rocks were thrown through the windows, causing significant damage. At McMaster we have consistently upheld freedom of expression and the right of members

of our community to engage in peaceful protest. However, these recent acts of vandalism do not qualify as Freedom of Expression. These were criminal actions intended to intimidate the university and individual decision makers. Such threatening and violent behaviour has no place on our campus and cannot be tolerated. Sadly, when incidents like this occur, they impact everyone. Our sense of safety and well-being are diminished, and trust within our community is eroded. Our faculty, staff and students deserve to learn, work and live in a safe and respectful environment, and we all have a role to play in supporting the safety and wellbeing of our university community.

Members were provided with an update on the Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA 4). The first phase of the process concluded in March and negotiations with the provincial government to conclude the second phase are ongoing. It is expected to complete in June. McMaster is well-positioned within the sector at this point and on target to achieve the metrics.

Ontario's Minister of Colleges and Universities, Nolan Quinn, was recently at McMaster to announce \$750 million in support for unfunded STEM students at McMaster and other Ontario universities and colleges. Of the \$750 million, McMaster will receive \$109 million over the next five years. The announcement focused on the government's decision to move the funding corridor mid-point. For McMaster, it addresses concerns about STEM students not being funded under the corridor.

D. Farrar reminded Senators that McMaster is entering into its Convocation season, beginning with the Health Sciences convocation ceremonies which take place next week. This is always a special time for our students and for our university community. Members were encouraged to attend.

Senators were reminded that the process to elect a Senate Representative to the Board of Governors is underway. Nominations are due to the Secretariat by Friday, May 16, 2025 at 12:00 p.m.

A member noted their concern that the University linked the property damage to the broader community of individuals involved in non-violent activism around divestment, and the implications of public statements by the University. The member expressed their frustration about the Board of Governors approval of the Principles of Responsible Investment that have financial risk and return as the primary philosophy over environmental, social and governance (ESG) aims. They also noted that the proposed revisions to the Board of Governors By-laws limits free expression and if the amendments are passed at the June Board meeting, members of the university community can only communicate with the Board through the Board Chair. The member encouraged members to oppose the changes to the Board By-Laws.

1. Approval of Agenda – Open Session

D. Farrar confirmed that no requests had been received to move any items from 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 May 14, 2025 and that items 2 through 4 be approved or received by Consent.

The motion was **Carried**.

CONSENT

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – April 9, 2025 (Open Session)

Motion:

that the minutes of the Open Session of the meeting held on April 9, 2025 be approved as circulated.

Approved by Consent.

3. Report from the University Planning Committee

a. Report from University Advancement

Received by Consent.

4. Report from the Committee on Appointments

a. Terms of Reference

1. Revised Terms of Reference – Distinguished Engineering Honorifics

Motion:

that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the revised terms of reference for the following Distinguished Engineering Honorifics, as circulated:

- **Distinguished Engineering Educator**
- **Joseph Ip Distinguished Engineering Fellow**
- **Distinguished Engineering Professor**
- **Dr. David Weaver Distinguished Engineering Professor and**
- **Dr. Simon Haykin Distinguished Engineering Professor.**

Approved by Consent.

2. Establishment of the John G. Kelton Chair in Immunological Blood Disorders

Motion:

that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the establishment of the John G. Kelton Chair in Immunological Blood Disorders, as circulated.

Approved by Consent.

REGULAR

5. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

6. Enquiries

There were no enquiries.

7. Communications

a. Annual Report from the McMaster Research Ethics Board, 2023-2024

Tara La Rose, *Chair, McMaster Research Ethics Board*, presented the report.

T. La Rose explained that the MREB has been deepening collaborations and connections to ensure that McMaster researchers are able to continue their research. During the monthly meetings, research practices, knowledge and expertise are shared. T. La Rose advised that the most challenging issue was the development of revised guidelines for payment of honoraria to research participants. The MREB assisted in developing alternative approaches that meet the CRA requirements and will continue to monitor the policy.

T. La Rose noted that there have been several changes to the membership including a new incoming Vice-Chair. T. La Rose thanked all members and staff.

This item was for information.

8. Report from Graduate Council

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

At its meeting on April 15, 2025, Graduate Council approved the following items:

a. New Programs

1. Master of Management in AI and Analytics

Manish Verma, *Associate Dean, DeGroote School of Business*, explained that the Master involves experiential training and can be completed in 16 months.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the establishment of the Master of Management in AI and Analytics as outlined in the attachments.

The motion was **Carried**.

2. Master of Management in Applied AI and Data-Driven Decision-Making

M. Verma explained that it is a part-time blended learning Master and can be completed over five academic terms. It will start in Winter 2026.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the establishment of the Master of Management in Applied AI and Data-Driven Decision-Making as outlined in the attachments.

The motion was **Carried**.

b. New Graduate Academic Certificates

1. Graduate Academic Certificate in Medical Health Physics & Internal Dosimetry
2. Graduate Academic Certificate in Nuclear Detection, Instrumentation & Methods
3. Graduate Academic Certificate in Radioactivity and Radiation Interactions

Fiona McNeill, *Professor, Physics & Astronomy*, explained that in discussions with industry partners, there was a need for graduate education, especially for individuals in industry who want smaller credentials. F. McNeill advised that not everyone wants to commit to a full Masters program and that courses were determined by nuclear facilities and industry partners.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the establishment of the three new Graduate Academic Certificates in Medical Health Physics & Internal Dosimetry, Nuclear Detection, Instrumentation & Methods and Radioactivity and Radiation Interactions, as circulated.

The motion was **Carried**.

c. Curriculum Revisions

1. Faculty of Engineering
2. Faculty of Health Sciences
3. Faculty of Humanities
4. Faculty of Science

S. Hranilovic provided an overview of the curriculum revisions.

It was duly moved and seconded,

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

The motion was **Carried**.

The remainder of items were for information.

d. Curriculum Revisions**e. New Award****9. Report from Undergraduate Council**

Caitlin Mullarkey, *Vice-Chair of Undergraduate Council*, presented the report.

a. Revisions to the Course Management Policy

At its meeting on April 29, 2025, the Undergraduate Council reviewed and approved minor changes to the Course Management Policy. These changes serve to ensure compliance with Ministry directives to make the costs of course materials publicly available.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the proposed revisions to the Undergraduate Course Management Policy, effective May 14, 2025, as circulated.

The motion was **Carried**.

The remainder of items were for information.

b. Terms of Award**c. 2018-2024 IQAP Cyclical Program Revises****10. Report from the Faculty of Engineering**

a. Faculty of Engineering By-Law Revisions

Heather Sheardown, *Dean, Faculty of Engineering*, presented the report.

H. Sheardown provided an overview of the proposed changes noting that they are minor and include title changes and changes to committee memberships.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve in principle, the proposed revisions to the Faculty of Engineering By-Laws and refer the revisions to the By-Laws Committee for review.

The motion was **Carried**.

11. Report from the University Planning Committee

Jerry Hurley, *Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic)*, presented the report.

J. Hurley explained that at its meeting on April 23, 2025, the University Planning Committee approved the following item:

a. Program Closures

1. Health Information Fundamentals Diploma

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the closure of the Health Information Fundamentals Diploma.

The motion was **Carried**.

The remainder of items were for information.

b. Graduate Academic Certificates in Nuclear Safety and Technology

1. Graduate Academic Certificate in Medical Health Physics & Internal Dosimetry;
2. Graduate Academic Certificate in Nuclear Detection, Instrumentation & Methods; and
3. Graduate Academic Certificate in Radioactivity and Radiation Interactions

c. Master of Management in AI Analytics & Master of Management in Applied AI and Data-Drive Decision Making

These items were presented through Graduate Council for approval by Senate.

12. Report from the Committee on Student Affairs

a. Residence Agreement/Contract 2025-2026

This item was for information.

13. Report from the Committee on Academic Integrity

Alfonso Iorio, *Chair of the Committee on Academic Integrity*, presented the report.

A. Iorio explained that at its meeting on April 23, 2025, the Committee on Academic Integrity approved the following item:

a. Proposed Revisions to the Academic Integrity Policy

A. Iorio explained that under sections 26c, 28, 33 and 35 of the Academic Integrity Policy, the student, Associate Dean, and Registrar must be notified of a possible academic integrity offence. The Office of Academic Integrity finds it inappropriate to inform the Associate Dean and Registrar at this early stage, as the matter may not lead to a formal charge. The Policy has been revised to remove that notification.

The other revision is to Section 21 which currently lacks language formally addressing falsified documentation submitted in the reinstatement process. Faculty Adjudicators have encountered such cases, so the policy has been revised to add language around the reinstatement process.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the proposed revisions to the Academic Integrity Policy effective July 1, 2025, as circulated.

The motion was **Carried**.

b. Annual Report of the Office of Academic Integrity

This item was for information.

14. Other Business

a. Senate By-Laws

Andrea Thyret-Kidd, *University Secretary and Chief Governance and Privacy Officer*, spoke to the item.

A. Thyret-Kidd advised that the revisions include updates to language to reflect processes, clarification that Senators cannot send a proxy, and amendments to the terms of reference for the University Planning Committee, Student Fees Committee, Graduate Council, the Senate Board for Student Appeals and the Board-Senate Research Misconduct Hearings Panel.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve in principle, the proposed revisions to the Senate By-Laws and refer the revisions to the By-Laws Committee for review.

In response to a question about whether the revision around livestreaming for open session was in addition to visitors or instead of visitors, A. Thyret-Kidd advised that it was in addition to visitors.

A. Thyret-Kidd clarified that the approval is in principle and the revisions will be sent to the By-Laws Committee for review and approval before coming back to Senate for final approval.

The motion was **Carried**.