

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE VOL. CXXXVIII

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

**PRESENT:** Susan Tighe (Chair), Rasheed Ahmad, Sonia Anand, Catherine Anderson, Kusum Bhatta, Blaise Bourdin, Steven Bray, Peter Cockett, Mark Crowther, Katherine Cuff, Kim Dej, Arlene Dosen, Catherine Frost, Gillian Goward, Saara Greene, Khaled Hassanein, Faiza Hirji, Steve Hranilovic, Manish Kacker, Azaan Khan, Ridha Khedri, Lucas Klein, Marc-Andre Letendre, Graeme Luke, Maureen MacDonald, Michael McGillion, Logan McLean, Alex Mouriopoulos, Bruce Newbold, Paul O'Byrne, Erin Rebello, Mohammad Salhia, Nicholas Serruys, Heather Sheardown, Shahram Shirani, Pamela Swett, Abdalla Talaat, Sarah Wojkowski, Salwa Zaher, Margaret Zanel, Edward Zhang, Andrea Thyret-Kidd (*University Secretary & Chief Governance and Privacy Officer*), Michelle Zheng (*Associate University Secretary*), Alysha Sless (*Assistant University Secretary*)

**REGRETS:** Saher Fazilat, Tina Fetner, Andrea Mactavish, Sue McCracken, Gianni Parise, Tracy Prowse, Erin Reid, Stacey Ritz, Kalai Saravanamuttu, Dennis Souder, Patrick Tobias

**OBSERVERS:** Carolyn Brendon, Dina Brooks, Sandra Carroll, Darran Fernandez, Bhagwati Gupta, Martin Horn, Clare Mitchell, Piper Plavins, Ellen Pocobelli, Melissa Pool, Karen Richmond

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### OPEN SESSION

Susan Tighe, President and Vice-Chancellor, 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.

S. Tighe welcomed five new members of Senate:

- Peter Cockett and Andrew Mactavish, representing the Faculty of Humanities
- Azaan Khan from Engineering and Erin Rebello from Science, representing Undergraduate Students
- Director of McMaster Continuing Education Mohammad Salhia.

It has been a busy and productive month in Public Affairs, full of government meetings on a range of subjects. Tariffs and Canadian sovereignty were dominant threads in every conversation. S. Tighe advised that this week they were pleased to host federal Industry Minister Mélanie Joly and MPs John-Paul Danko, Lisa Hepfner and Aslam

Rana for a meeting at the Canada Centre for Electron Microscopy and a tour of the Institute for Infectious Disease Research. McMaster Vice-President, Research Gianni Parise and senior nuclear research leaders were part of our delegation for what was a pleasant and productive visit and a great opportunity to showcase McMaster's research infrastructure and alignment with federal priorities. This week, S. Tighe was part of a McMaster group to attend a session organized by the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce to discuss the upcoming provincial budget, featuring provincial Minister of Finance Peter Bethenfalvy, Minister of Sport, Neil Lumsden and Hamilton Mountain MPP Monica Ciriello. McMaster received a handful of positive shoutouts from the speakers at lunch.

Last Thursday, S. Tighe met with Premier Doug Ford to discuss matters of importance to McMaster and the sector and had a very positive discussion that included the premier favorably noting McMaster's responsible fiscal management. S. Tighe noted that McMaster is the only university in the province to meet all seven financial parameters in the green category. This is a huge accomplishment, and we have worked hard to maintain that status. On October 20, S. Tighe and members of the President and Vice-Presidents team (PVP) participated in McMaster's annual Queen's Park advocacy day, organized by the Public Affairs team. The group had 13 meetings, including three with Cabinet Ministers, one Deputy Minister, MPPs, senior public servants and political staff. They also hosted a Queen's Park reception that was very well attended by Cabinet Ministers, MPPs from all parties and political staff from ministers' and MPPs' offices

The federal budget was announced November 4 and some items of interest to McMaster are:

- An International Talent Attraction Strategy and Action Plan to recruit more than 1,000 international researchers to Canada for \$1.7 billion. It includes:
  - \$1 billion to support the recruitment of exceptional international researchers to Canadian universities.
  - \$400 million for research infrastructure to support these recruited researchers.
  - \$134 million to enable top international doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows to relocate to Canada.
  - \$120 million to support university recruitment of international assistant professors.
- The budget also allocated \$84 million to extend the Elevate Intellectual Property program, \$22.5 million to renew the Innovation Asset Collective's Patent Collective, and \$75 million to extend the National Research Council's IP Assist Program.

With the budget in mind, S. Tighe and members of PVP will be attending McMaster's annual federal lobbying days on December 1 and 2, 2025. The visit, organized by the Public Affairs team, will include meetings with key ministers, elected officials, Deputy Ministers, senior political staff and other officials.

On October 23, S. Tighe was pleased to participate in a reception organized by Communications, Marketing and Public Affairs to recognize and thank faculty members who have participated in media interviews, written op-eds and taken part in university marketing efforts. This work is not required, but it certainly is valuable, and this event was a good opportunity to express McMaster's appreciation to those who have participated. This was the first such event and, judging by the many pleasant conversations around the room, S. Tighe hopes they can make this an annual affair.

S. Tighe took part in a substantial interview of her own last week when she spoke to Hamilton Spectator journalist Scott Radley for an episode of his podcast, Placeline Hamilton, which was posted earlier today.

Members of the Advancement Team and S. Tighe have had positive and productive visits with McMaster alumni in Vancouver, Victoria, San Francisco and New York City since Senate last met, and engagement and optimism about McMaster's future is very high among that important constituency.

S. Tighe shared a number of new honours for McMaster faculty members. Nine McMaster researchers from four Faculties have been named Canada Research Chairs. Their work addresses important issues including healthy aging, chronic pain management, clean transportation, and mental health. Three McMaster researchers are newly named Canada Research Chairs and six have had their Chairs renewed.

The new CRCs are:

- Anne Klassen from Health Sciences, with a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Patient Reported Outcomes.
- Vanessa Watts from Social Sciences, with a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Colonial Histories and Indigenous Futures.
- Allison Williams from Science, with a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in the Care Economy, Aging and Policy.

The renewed CRCs are:

- Marla Beauchamp from Health Sciences, with a renewed Tier 2 Chair in Mobility, Aging and Chronic Disease.
- Irene Botosaru from Social Sciences, with a renewed Tier 2 Chair in Applied Econometrics.
- Jason Busse from Health Sciences, with a renewed Tier 2 Chair in Prevention & Management of Chronic Pain.
- Ali Emadi from Engineering, with a renewed Tier 1 Chair in Transportation Electrification and Smart Mobility.
- Sarah Svenningsen from Health Sciences, with a renewed Tier 2 Chair in Pulmonary Imaging.
- Marisa Young from Social Sciences, with a renewed Tier 2 Chair in Mental Health and Work-Life Transitions.

In further honours, Lehana Thabane, a professor with the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact has been elected to The World Academy of Sciences' 2026 class of fellows. Dr. Thabane, who is also Vice-President of Research at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, is one of only two Canadians among 65 worldwide to be elected to the newest class and is the third person from McMaster to be elected to the Academy. Tohid Didar, an associate professor of Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering, has earned the prestigious Arthur B. McDonald Fellowship (formerly the E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowship). Each year, only six researchers across Canada are selected for this distinction, which celebrates transformative contributions to the natural sciences and engineering. Bruce Gaulin, who holds the Brockhouse Chair in the Physics of Materials here at McMaster, has been named scientific director of Neutrons Canada, which governs, manages, and represents Canada's infrastructure program for research and development with neutron beams. Sheila Singh, Director of the Centre for Discovery in Cancer Research, has been named one of Canada's Most Powerful Women by the Women's Executive Network. The Network's Top 100 Awards celebrate bold trailblazers whose leadership and innovation are shaping Canada's future. Winners will be honoured November 27 at the Fairmont Royal York in Toronto. Myles Sergeant, a family physician and assistant clinical professor with the Department of Family Medicine, has earned the 2025 Environmental Health Award, presented by the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Foundation for Advancing Family Medicine to a family physician or resident who demonstrates outstanding leadership and dedication to environmental health issues. S. Tighe noted that these are all significant achievements and congratulated everyone who has earned these distinctions.

McMaster was the proud host of the National Women's Soccer Championships, a four-day tournament featuring eight teams from across Canada, including McMaster. This was the first time McMaster had hosted the championships since 1992. Among the many who attended the games were 2,000 local elementary school pupils who were assigned to specific groups to cheer for the competing schools, as a way of making visiting teams feel welcome and supported.

S. Tighe was pleased to join MSU President Piper Plavins and others to celebrate and thank McMaster alumni Lachlan and Doris MacLachlan, longtime supporters of the university who have made a \$2-million gift to strengthen McMaster's Access Program, which helps equity-deserving students and those from historically underrepresented backgrounds to overcome barriers to postsecondary education. The program is a university-wide initiative that provides financial aid and wraparound support to diverse student groups — including those who are first-generation, Indigenous, have disabilities, are racialized, come from low-income or rural families or are mature learners.

S. Tighe shared that McMaster alumnus, former campaign chair and Chancellor Lynton (Red) Wilson, who has done so much to support the university, is making a new gift of \$8 million to McMaster in alignment with Wilson College for Leadership and Civic Engagement. They expect to make a formal announcement with more details soon

The three Fall Convocation ceremonies are to take place November 19 and 20. These will be the final Convocation ceremonies for Chancellor Santee Smith, whose second term in the role concludes on December 31, 2025. S. Tighe noted that we are so fortunate to have had such a warm, authentic and active Chancellor. Chancellor Smith has significantly advanced McMaster's important connections to Six Nations of the Grand River, contributed to the growing profile of Indigenous knowledge and education on campus – including our Indigenous Studies department – and has helped moved us closer to achieving the ultimate goal of reconciliation. The role of Chancellor demands a significant commitment of time and energy, and Chancellor Smith has given both in abundance. A public open house to celebrate her time as Chancellor is set for Friday November 21 from 2:30 to 4:30 pm in the Great Hall of Alumni Memorial Hall.

In response to a question about whether Bill 33 and the impact on fees and admission processes has been discussed in meetings with MPs, Maureen MacDonald, *Provost and Vice-President (Academic)*, advised that the Bill is proceeding through the provincial legislature and is likely to be passed. Together with advocacy groups, and COU legal advisory for universities, the implications are being reviewed. A group is being convened under Saher Fazilat, *Vice-President, Operations and Finance*, to further understand the impact on McMaster.

### 1. **Approval of Agenda – Open Session**

S. Tighe 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 November 12, 2025 and that items 2 through 5 be approved or received by Consent.**

The motion was **Carried**.

### **CONSENT**

### 2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting – October 8, 2025 (Open Session)**

Motion:

**that the minutes of the Open Session of the meeting held on October 8, 2025 be approved as circulated.**

**Approved** by Consent.

### 3. **Report from the University Planning Committee**

#### a. **Report from the Faculty of Health Sciences**

**Received** by Consent.

**4. Report from the Committee on Appointments****a. Terms of Reference**

1. Revised Terms of Reference – Associate Vice-President, Research (Nuclear)

Motion:

**that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the revised terms of reference for the Associate Vice-President, Research (Nuclear), as circulated.**

**Approved** by Consent.

2. Revised Terms of Reference – Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education

Motion:

**that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the revised terms of reference for the Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education, as circulated.**

**Approved** by Consent.

3. Revised Terms of Reference – Associate Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education

Motion:

**that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the revised terms of reference for the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education, as circulated.**

**Approved** by Consent.

**5. Report from the Board of Governors****a. Scott Watter Judicial Review Report**

**Received** by Consent.

**REGULAR****6. Business Arising**

There was no business arising.

**7. Enquiries**

There were no enquiries.

**8. Communications****a. Report from the Provost**

M. MacDonald provided the report. M. MacDonald explained that the purpose of the report is to ensure awareness of the academic portfolio. Members were provided with an overview of the opportunities to position McMaster for success including maintaining our strong financial stewardship. In September they received notice of a \$5 million gift from the Mastercard Foundation and are looking to implement it in a thoughtful way.

M. MacDonald shared an update on the budget process noting that McMaster is in good hands because of the incredible efforts and diligence of representatives on the Budget Committee and those supporting the Committee. They continue to look for efficiencies, alignment and opportunities for fiscal restraint. M. MacDonald thanked everyone for managing expenses.

Members were provided with highlights from the Faculties including pilot initiatives, new payment systems, and strategic plans.

This item was for information.

**b. SMA4**

Melissa Pool, *Associate Vice-President, Finance and Planning (Academic)*, provided a report.

M. Pool shared an overview of previous Strategic Mandate Agreements (SMA) and provided an update on SMA4 which focuses on balancing accountability with financial sustainability.

M. Pool noted that the SMA does not change McMaster and it rewards us for who we are. We received proportionally more funding than other universities. Members were provided with an overview of how funding is obtained, changes that could be made for funding, such as weighted enrolment, and an overview of the metrics of which six are mandated by the province. The key message is that this is a funding opportunity and McMaster still has autonomy over identity.

This item was for information.

**9. Report from Graduate Council**

**a. New Award**

This item was for information.

**10. Report from Undergraduate Council**

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

**a. New Non-Academic Certificate of Completion Program**

**1. Strategic Foresight and Futures Literacy**

K. Dej explained that at its meeting on September 23, 2025, the Undergraduate Council reviewed and approved the Strategic Foresight and Futures Literacy Certificate of Completion program.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the Certificate of Completion in Strategic Foresight and Futures Literacy, as circulated.**

The motion was **Carried**.

The remainder of items were for information.

**b. Terms of Award**

**c. Annual Reports**

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

M. MacDonald presented the report.

**a. Reporting and Name Change for McMaster Institute for Health Equity**

M. MacDonald explained that at its meeting on October 29, 2025, the University Planning Committee approved the proposed reporting change for the McMaster Institute for Health Equity.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the transition of McMaster Institute for Health Equity reporting to the Office of the Vice-President Research to a Centre reporting to the Faculty of Social Sciences, and name change to McMaster Centre for Health Equity, effective December 11, 2025.**

The motion was **Carried**.

**b. Proposed Name Change for Chanchlani Research Centre**

At the same meeting, the University Planning Committee reviewed and approved the proposed name change for the Chanchlani Research Centre.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, that the name of the Chanchlani Research Centre be changed to the Global Glocal Research Centre, effective December 11, 2025.**

In response to a question regarding the reason for the change, M. MacDonald explained that the Centre had received funding for a number of years that is now ending. As per the discussion with the donor, the naming would end with the funding. The situation presented an opportunity for change, and consultations were held across Faculties. The proposal reflects the current and aspirational activities of the Centre.

The motion was **Carried**.

The remaining item was for information.

**c. New Non-Academic Certificate of Completion Program**

At the same meeting, the University Planning Committee reviewed and approved the Certificate of Completion in Strategic Foresight and Futures Literacy. This certificate was approved by Undergraduate Council on September 23, 2025. This item was presented under item 10.

**12. Report from the Committee on Appointments**

Graeme Luke, *Chair of the Senate Committee on Appointments*, presented the report.

G. Luke explained that at its meeting on October 27, 2025, the Committee on Appointments approved the following recommendation and now recommends it to the Senate for approval:

**a. Terms of Reference**

1. Revised Terms of Reference and Name Change – Dean and Vice-President of Health Sciences

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the revised Terms of Reference for the Dean and Vice-President of Health Sciences and the name change to the Vice-President and Dean of Health Sciences, effective July 1, 2026, as circulated.**

The motion was **Carried**.

### **13. Report from the Committee on Honorary Degrees**

S. Tighe presented the report on behalf of the Chancellor.

#### **a. Guidelines for the Awarding of Honorary Degrees Policy Revisions**

S. Tighe explained that at its meeting on October 31, 2025, the Committee on Honorary Degrees approved, for recommendation to Senate, revisions to the Guidelines for the Awarding of Honorary Degrees Policy.

The revisions include clarity for who is eligible to receive a Doctor of Science (D.Sc.), and the addition of the word 'typically' for the nomination of retired faculty/staff/members at least three years after retirement.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the proposed revisions for the Guidelines for Awarding of Honorary Degrees Policy, effective November 12, 2025, as circulated.**

The motion was **Carried**.

### **14. Other Business**

#### **a. Guest Speaker**

##### **Faculty of Health Sciences – Paul O'Byrne**

Paul O'Byrne, *Dean and Vice-President, Faculty of Health Sciences*, presented the item.

P. O'Byrne provided an overview of Faculty funding, staffing, and the current ranking. McMaster is in the top 50 in health and medicine in the world in all of the ranking systems. Members were provided with a comparison of applicants vs. enrolment targets, highlighting the competitiveness for entry into programs. P. O'Byrne noted that the Faculty should focus on elevating reputation through strategic communications and rankings management.

M. MacDonald thanked P. O'Byrne for the way he stewarded the Faculty with integrity and passion and noted that culture does not happen by accident.

In response to a question about the thought processes around the pathway for Black and Indigenous students, P. O'Byrne explained that they recognized that certain segments of the population did not know or had challenges applying for a wide variety of reasons. The Indigenous pathway has existed for approximately 15 years and a large number of graduates from that pathway are now faculty. P. O'Byrne noted that they have applied the same process to encourage Black students to apply and have been successful with 17% identifying as Black in the most recent class.

S. Tighe thanked P. O'Byrne for his leadership, care and commitment to the Faculty of Health Sciences and McMaster.

This item was for information.