

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE

VOL. CXXXVI

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

PRESENT: Susan Tighe (Chair), Rasheed Ahmad, Barry Allen, Sonia Anand, Catherine Anderson, Paul Andrews, Blaise Bourdin, Steven Bray, Ruth Chen, Mark Crowther, Katherine Cuff, Kim Dej, Arlene Dosen, Saher Fazilat, Tina Fetner, Carlos Filipe, Catherine Frost, James Gillett, Gillian Goward, Saara Greene, Khaled Hassanein, Faiza Hirji, Steve Hranilovic, Manish Kacker, Ridha Khedri, Lucas Klein, Marc-Andre Letendre, Lili Litwin, Maureen MacDonald, Sue McCracken, Michael McGillion, Logan McLean, Alex Mouriopoulos, Bruce Newbold, Paul O'Byrne, Gianni Parise, Tracy Prowse, Mehak Ismail Rajani, Erin Reid, Stacey Ritz, Kalai Saravanamuttu, Nicholas Serruys, Shahram Shirani, Dennis Souder, Pamela Swett, Patrick Tobias, Salwa Zaher, Margaret Zanel, Edward Zhang, Eugenia Zuroski, Andrea Thyret-Kidd (*University Secretary*), Michelle Zheng (*Associate University Secretary*), Alysha Sless (*Assistant University Secretary*)

REGRETS: Graeme Luke, Heather Sheardown, Sarah Wojkowski

GUESTS: Clare Mitchell

OBSERVERS: Carolyn Brendon, Dina Brooks, Sandra Carroll, Rosa da Silva, David Estok, Darran Fernandez, Matheus Grasselli, Bhagwati Gupta, Elisabeth Marquis, Ellen Pocobelli, Melissa Pool, Sean Van Koughnett, Barrington Walker, Rob Walters

OPEN SESSION

Susan Tighe, *President & Vice-Chancellor*, welcomed everyone to the first Senate Meeting of the 2025/26 academic year, and her first as Chair. S. Tighe added that it is great to have everyone back on campus, and it has been inspiring to see our students return to campus, and to experience the energy and excitement they bring with them.

S. Tighe 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.

The following new Senators were welcomed:

Faculty of Business: Erin Reid

Faculty of Engineering: Ridha Khedri

Faculty of Humanities:	Nicholas Serruys, Barry Allen
Faculty of Social Sciences:	Marc-André Letendre, Tina Fetner, Catherine Frost
Faculty of Science:	Gillian Goward, Steven Bray
Faculty of Health Sciences:	Sarah Wojkowski, Mark Crowther
Undergraduate Students:	Patrick Tobias, Rasheed Ahmad, Edward Zhang, Logan McLean
Graduate Students:	Abdalla Talaat, Mehak Rajani, Lucas Klein
Board Representative:	Catherine Anderson, Salwa Zaher
Provost and Vice-President, Academic	Maureen MacDonald
Vice-President (Research):	Gianni Parise
Dean, Faculty of Science (Acting):	Bruce Newbold
Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences (Acting):	Katherine Cuff
Re-Elected:	
Faculty of Science:	Paul Andrews

September 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. In the week leading to this solemn and important day of sombre commemoration and reflection, there will be a number of events on campus to deepen our understanding of the history and continuing impact of the residential school system. Details on events will be available on the Daily News in the coming days.

S. Tighe explained that on her third day as President, Dean of Engineering Heather Sheardown and herself were honored to visit Six Nations on July 3rd to participate in the annual water festival which gives thanks for the precious resource of water and recognizes everyone's shared responsibility to care for water in all contexts. S. Tighe and Dean Sheardown had the opportunity to meet with Six Nations elders and the president of Six Nations Polytechnic. They were also able to speak with students and faculty and learn about their research and McMaster's strong relationship with Six Nations. S. Tighe thanked Dr. Dawn Martin-Hill and Karen Wright, Administrator Indigenous Initiatives, Indigenous Education Council for their support in organizing the visit.

S. Tighe advised that yesterday it was announced that in recognition of McMaster's longstanding leadership in Indigenous education, the Mastercard Foundation has made a remarkable \$5-million gift to elevate innovation in academic programs, supports and services for Indigenous students at McMaster. The gift, created to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Final

Report and 94 Calls to Action, is part of a \$245-million strategic investment by the Mastercard Foundation to recognize the outstanding impact of more than 30 organizations across Canada that are advancing education for Indigenous young people.

At the federal level, S. Tighe has been working with Vice-President, Research Gianni Parise and Alex Lawson, Special Advisor, Institutional Initiatives, to strengthen our relationship with the Carney government. Two weeks ago, they met in Ottawa with a number of senior leaders from Industry Canada, CFI and the NRC. These meetings gave G. Parise and S. Tighe an opportunity to speak about expanding our partnerships with all of them. They were productive and positive meetings. S. Tighe added that they are also working closely with our national sector associations who continue to advance the challenges surrounding international students and visas.

At the provincial level, we continue to advocate for increased financial support from the government. In addition, the Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security is conducting broad consultations with post-secondary institutions and stakeholders on governance, funding and research security. These consultations are being organized by COU and S. Tighe is participating.

After last year's successful reintroduction of Homecoming, the McMaster Students Union and Student Affairs have organized a full set of student-centered campus events to take place on September 20th. The Homecoming football game will see the Marauders take on the Guelph Gryphons at Ron Joyce Stadium. There will also be a day of activities for students followed by an evening concert on JHE field.

S. Tighe noted that they had a very lively and positive Welcome Week, with strong participation from students, including a successful and spirited welcome event at Ron Joyce Stadium featuring welcoming messages from senior leaders.

The start of the Fall academic term also means we have welcomed the inaugural class of the Wilson College for Leadership and Civic Engagement, which is an important milestone for McMaster, enabled by our former chancellor Red Wilson. S. Tighe thanked Dean Swett, Dean Hurley, Acting Dean Cuff, Acting Academic Director Stephen Jones and the Wilson College Team for achieving an ambitious goal of welcoming the inaugural class in just 3 years from the announcement of the donation.

S. Tighe reported that eight McMaster researchers are being recognized this year by the Royal Society of Canada for their contributions to research and scholarship. Four have been elected to the RSC as Fellows, a distinction awarded to Canadians who have made remarkable contributions to the arts, the humanities, the sciences or Canadian public life.

They are:

- Daniel Coleman, Professor Emeritus, English and Cultural Studies
- Stuart Phillips, Professor, Kinesiology

- Parminder Raina Professor, Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact; and
- Allison Williams, Professor, Earth, Environment & Society

Three researchers have been named to the RSC's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists, which recognizes mid-career leaders who are helping Canada and the world address major challenges and seize new opportunities. They are:

- Olufemi Ayeni, Professor, Surgery
- Allan Downey, Associate Professor, History; Joint Appointment, Indigenous Studies; and
- Stelios Georgiades, Associate Professor, Psychiatry & Behavioural Neurosciences

In addition, Hendrik Poinar, a Professor of Anthropology, will become the third McMaster researcher to receive the society's prestigious Sir John William Dawson Medal, recognizing the impact and versatility of his scholarship. Dr. Poinar is the Principal Investigator at the McMaster Ancient DNA Centre and is known worldwide for his groundbreaking work in evolutionary genetics and biomolecular anthropology. He joins McMaster's previous recipients Harry Thode and Fraser Mustard, which puts him in very good company. S. Tighe noted that Provost MacDonald, Vice-President of Research Parise and herself will be attending the Royal Society of Canada conference in November with the honourees. S. Tighe added that these are all great achievements and congratulated everyone who has been recognized.

The following faculty were recently appointed to the Order of Canada:

- Peter Rosenbaum, a professor of Pediatrics who has transformed child disability care;
- Saroj Saigal, a professor emerita of Pediatrics, in recognition of her work in shaping the field of neonatology; and
- Timothy Whelan, a world-class radiation oncologist who has dedicated his career to transforming how breast cancer is treated, placing patient outcomes and quality of life at the heart of his work.

These are tremendous accomplishments and S. Tighe congratulated the individuals.

S. Tighe noted that the year ahead will be filled with important work, including:

- the search for a new Vice-President and Dean of Health Sciences;
- the search for a new Dean of Science;
- naming a new Chancellor;
- external reviews of the Faculty of Health Sciences and the Department of Communications, Marketing and Public Affairs;
- developing a new strategic plan for the University with broad consultation;
- preparing a major fundraising campaign; and

- focusing on critical priorities, including the McMaster Nuclear Reactor, commercializing research, and improving the student experience

S. Tighe explained that Senate plays a critical role in overseeing the academic life of McMaster. This includes:

- controlling and regulating the system of education, such as reviewing new academic programs, curriculum changes, and standards for admission
- overseeing the conferral of degrees
- nominating faculty members and members of senior administration for appointment

Senate operates on the principle of collegial governance. The majority of Senators – including many senior administrators on Senate – are faculty members. Senate also includes student members, as well as staff and alumni representatives. This ensures that these key parts of our community are engaged in decision-making, and their voices are heard. Given the size of Senate and the complexity of many items that come before it, meeting topics are prescribed in the pre-circulated agenda. This ensures all Senators have access to the relevant material, and that full details are available in good time ahead of meetings. This supports informed discussion, allowing for thoughtful and engaged decision-making. Most Senators have been assigned to at least one Senate committee. Before items reach Senate, they have already been considered by colleagues at multiple levels. As an example, a recommendation appointing a new faculty member will have been discussed at the Departmental and Faculty levels before being presented to Senate Committee on Appointments, then Senate, and finally the Board. Senators should be confident in knowing their colleagues have worked diligently at the Committee level before items reach Senate.

Senate is responsible for high-level academic oversight and does not become involved in individual cases or issues, unless they follow a defined pathway or process to the Senate agenda. Similarly, Student Appeals or disciplinary cases are only discussed at Senate when referred by a formal body such as the Senate Board for Student Appeals. The University has well-defined processes for addressing individual concerns, grievances, and managing appeal processes. These processes are facilitated by the appropriate offices in accordance with policy. As Chair, S. Tighe has responsibility for making sure meetings run smoothly, that agenda items are properly reviewed, that Senators can ask questions and discuss agenda items, and that the academic oversight of the University proceeds well. S. Tighe also reports to the Board of Governors on the activities of Senate and presents recommendations from Senate to the Board, where Board approval is also required.

As Senators, you can all play your part in the successful functioning of Senate by:

- attending meetings and engaging in the important work of the Committees you have been assigned to
- reviewing agenda packages ahead of meetings
- remaining knowledgeable and respectful of the University's governance processes

- working with the University Secretariat to ask questions and seek advice around next steps with regard to any issues or concerns

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 September 10, 2025 and that items 2 through 4 be approved or received by Consent.

The motion was **Carried**.

CONSENT

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting – June 11, 2025 (Open Session)**

Motion:

that the minutes of the Open Session of the meeting held on June 11, 2025 be approved as circulated.

Approved by Consent.

3. **Communications**

a. General Senate Information

1. Senate Primer and Confidentiality
2. Senate Meeting Schedule for 2025-2026
3. Senate Committee List for 2025-2026
4. Senate Membership List for 2025-2026

Received by Consent.

b. Annual Faculty Reports

1. Executive Summary - Annual Faculty Reports
2. Annual Report on Total Numbers of Full-Time Faculty and of Contractually Limited Appointments in the Categories of Appointment as of June 30, 2025
3. Annual Report on Total Numbers of Adjunct and Visiting Appointments of Three Months and More

Received by Consent.

4. Report from the Executive Committee**a. Actions Taken on Behalf of Senate: Terms of Reference**

1. Establishment of the Director, Master of Management in AI and Analytics and Master of Management in Applied AI and Data-Driven Decision-Making
2. Revised Terms of Reference - Director, CPA Ontario Centre for Accounting Research in Regulatory Reporting
3. Establishment of the Anne Marie Brune/PHRI Chair in Vascular Dementia
4. Establishment of the McMaster/PHRI Chair in Global Stroke Rehabilitation
5. Establishment of the R. Brian Haynes and Family Chair in Knowledge Translation
6. Revised Terms of Reference and Name Change - Salim Yusuf Chair in Cardiology

Received by Consent.

REGULAR**5. Business Arising**

There was no business arising.

6. Enquiries

There were no enquiries.

7. Communications**a. Preliminary Enrolment Figures**

Matheus Grasselli, *Deputy Provost*, and Steve Hranilovic, *Vice-Provost & Dean of Graduate Studies*, provided a verbal report on the preliminary undergraduate and graduate enrolment figures. Senate will be provided with final numbers when these reports are available, typically at the December meeting.

M. Grasselli explained that there was an 11% drop in applications for level one undergraduate international students at the start of the cycle and there was a 0% change in enrolment for international undergraduate students. M. Grasselli noted the success of recruitment efforts. For the total number of new level one undergraduate students coming in, there was a 12% increase in registration. There was an increase of 7% overall for students in level one, compared to last year. Looking at all students in all levels, there was a 4% increase compared to last year.

S. Hranilovic explained that there has been a small decrease of 0.75% in the overall graduate population. S. Hranilovic noted that in the Faculty of Engineering, students need to arrive in order to be considered enrolled. There was an 8% reduction in international enrolment and an increase of 2.7% in domestic enrolment. S. Hranilovic explained that the ratio of graduate to undergraduate population was 31% last year and is at 28% for this year. Notable trends include an increase in domestic Ph.D. and Masters enrolment for all Faculties, while international student enrolment decreased. The reduction in professional international enrolment was offset by the increase in domestic Masters enrolment.

In response to a question regarding student visas, S. Hranilovic explained that they have successfully managed the Personal Attestation Letters (PAL), which international students require in order to apply, and that the concern is with government processing times. There are also no regional processing centres which means the processing time is extended. S. Hranilovic thanked S. Van Koughnett for his support.

In response to a question regarding the financial expectations, M. MacDonald explained that the numbers are being reviewed and are tracking close to projections. The final enrolment numbers will not be available until November 1.

This item was for information.

8. Report from Graduate Council

a. New Awards

This item was for information.

S. Hranilovic, *Vice-Provost & Dean of Graduate Studies*, advised that new award terms are presented to Graduate Council and then recommended to Senate.

9. Report from the Faculty of Business

S. Tighe explained that approval of by-laws is a three-step process and today is the first step with 'approval in principle'. Next, the By-Laws Committee will review and approve the by-laws before bringing them back to a Senate meeting for final approval.

Khaled Hassanein, *Dean, Faculty of Business*, presented the report.

a. Faculty of Business By-Law Revisions

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve, in principle, the amendments to the Faculty of Business By-Laws and refer the amendments to the Committee on By-Laws for review.

The motion was **Carried**.

10. Report from the Committee on Appointments

Shahram Shirani, *Member of the Senate Committee on Appointments*, presented the report.

S. Shirani explained that at its meeting on August 25, 2025, the Committee on Appointments approved the following recommendation and now recommends it to the Senate for approval:

a. Policy Revisions

1. Distinguished University Professor Policy Revisions

Matheus Grasselli, *Deputy Provost*, spoke to the revisions and explained the recommendation to change the criteria for calculating the number of Distinguished University Professors (DUP) that can be awarded each year. The primary change was to discount DUP appointments awarded more than 10 years prior in the calculation of eligible DUPs.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the proposed revisions to the Distinguished University Professor Policy, effective September 10, 2025, as circulated.

The motion was **Carried**.

11. Other Business

There was no other business.