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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE
VOL. CXLIII
Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 3:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Maureen MacDonald (Chair), Susan Tighe, Rasheed Ahmad, Sonia Anand, Catherine Anderson, Paul Andrews, Kusum Bhatta, Blaise Bourdin, Steven Bray, Mark Crowther, Kim Dej, Arlene Dosen, Tina Fetner, Carlos Filipe, Catherine Frost, Gillian Goward, Saara Greene, Khaled Hassanein, Faiza Hirji, Steve Hranilovic, Jerry Hurley, Manish Kacker, Azaan Khan, Ridha Khedri, Lucas Klein, Marc-Andre Letendre, Graeme Luke, Andrew Mactavish, Sue McCracken, Michael McGillion, Logan McLean, Alex Mouriopoulos, Bruce Newbold, Paul O'Byrne, Gianni Parise, Tracy Prowse, Mehak Ismail Rajani, Erin Rebello, Erin Reid, Mohammad Salhia, Kalai Saravanamuttu, Nicholas Serruys, Heather Sheardown, Shahram Shirani, Dennis Souder, Pamela Swett, Abdalla Talaat, Patrick Tobias, Tom Venner, Sarah Wojkowski, Salwa Zaher, Margaret Zanel, Andrea Thyret-Kidd (*University Secretary & Chief Governance and Privacy Officer),* Michelle Zheng (*Associate University Secretary),* Alysha Sless (*Assistant University Secretary*)

REGRETS: Saher Fazilat, Stacey Ritz, Eugenia Zuroski

OBSERVERS: Carolyn Brendon, Dina Brooks, Sandra Carroll, David Estok, Matheus Grasselli, Bhagwati Gupta, Martin Horn, Vivian Lewis, Elizabeth Marquis, Clare Mitchell, Ellen Pocobelli, Melissa Pool, Karen Richmond, Sean Van Koughnett, Barrington Walker

GUESTS: Alfonso Iorio, Beverly Jacobs, Laurel Trainor

OPEN SESSION

Opening Remarks

Maureen MacDonald, *Provost and Vice-President (Academic)*, chaired the Senate meeting and invited Susan Tighe, *President and Vice-Chancellor*, to provide the opening remarks.

S. Tighe informed members that she is participating from Hong Kong. S. Tighe advised that the newest QS World University Rankings by subject have recognized McMaster's notable progress in several important categories. QS has rated McMaster one of the best universities in the world to study life sciences and medicine, jumping four spots to 56th globally. McMaster also rose in four specific subject areas this year to rank among the top 35 globally in these subject areas:

- Anatomy and physiology, jumping to 18th in the world.

- Nursing, advancing six spots to 24th in the world.
- Kinesiology, advancing eight spots to 25th in the world.
- Medicine, jumping 10 spots to rank 31st in the world.

McMaster has also climbed to 180th in the world for engineering and technology and made gains in arts and humanities and social sciences and management. The QS World University Rankings by Subject are based on a comparative analysis of more than 18,300 university programs from more than 1,700 universities around the world. S. Tighe congratulated everyone at McMaster.

Three McMaster research projects have been awarded a combined $35.6 million in federal funding through the Canada Foundation for Innovation. The new resources from the CFI's Innovation Fund will support cutting-edge research in nuclear, materials and archaeological science. The funding is part of a $552 million national investment announced by Industry Minister Mélanie Joly, supporting 92 research infrastructure projects at 32 higher-education institutions across Canada. The three McMaster projects are:

- $15.5 million to support the expansion of the Canadian Centre for Electron Microscopy, where Nabil Bassim will lead a team of researchers using high-powered microscopes to study critical minerals, electronic waste, semiconductor devices and novel electronic and optical films.
- $13.5 million to build on a 2020 project that helped establish the Canadian Neutron Beam Laboratory at McMaster, where physicists Bruce Gaulin and Pat Clancy are co-leads. Neutron beams are essential tools for materials research and innovation.
- $6.6 million for the McMaster Archaeological Centre for Minimally Invasive/Non-Destructive Science, where anthropologists Tracy Prowse and Andrew Roddick will co-lead research on human resilience in the past using ethical and innovative archaeological science that foregrounds community collaboration.

S. Tighe shared that McMaster's Haroon Yousuf, an associate professor in the Department of Medicine, has been elected president of the Ontario Medical Association (OMA). His work spans hospital operations, academic medicine, medical education, and equity-focused system leadership, with an emphasis on building physician-led structures that support high-quality patient care and workforce sustainability. The OMA represents Ontario's 50,000-plus physicians, medical students and retired physicians, advocating for and supporting doctors while strengthening the leadership role of doctors in caring for patients. H. Yousuf's term will begin May 7, 2026. He takes leadership of the association at a critical time, as the health-care system continues to operate under significant pressure. His election is a proud moment for the department, the Faculty of Health Sciences, and for McMaster.

S. Tighe advised that she recently participated in the opening of a beautiful, well-equipped space for first-year Engineering students to work on their design projects.

The Candu Core in the John Hodgins Engineering Building is a 5,000-square-foot collaborative workspace made possible by a $1.5 million gift from Candu Energy Canada. The Candu Core will serve students taking Integrated Cornerstone Design Projects, which cultivate essential technical and professional skills through hands-on, problem-based learning in groups. Beginning in Fall 2026, incoming Bachelor of Engineering students will be the first to bring their ideas to life in the Candu Core.

Victor Kuperman, a professor in the Department of Linguistics and Languages and the Canada Research Chair in Psycholinguistics, has been awarded a 2026 Dorothy Killam Fellowship, one of Canada's most prestigious research awards. The Fellowship recognizes exceptional Canadian scholars working in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, health sciences, and engineering. It provides two years' funding for a researcher to pause their teaching and administrative duties to pursue ground-breaking, best-in-class research that is expected to have a significant national or global impact. V. Kuperman will be working on adult literacy, using AI to develop tools to adapt texts to specific reading proficiency levels for users who are learning English, struggling with reading or want to improve their skills.

Eric Brown of the Department of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences is to receive the prestigious Arthur Wynne Gold Medal from the Canadian Society for Molecular Biosciences. The Wynne Medal is awarded once every two years and is the society's highest honour, recognizing outstanding and sustained contributions to molecular biosciences in Canada. E. Brown, a member of McMaster's Michael G. DeGroote Institute for Infectious Disease Research, is being honoured for his internationally renowned work in the areas of bacterial systems biology and antimicrobial drug discovery. His lab's work has led to major breakthroughs published in top scientific journals, new made-at-McMaster intellectual property, and the launch of promising Canadian spinout companies, including Synmedix, a biotech firm that enhances the efficacy and spectrum of antibiotics, enabling them to treat infections that are otherwise drug-resistant. In recent years, he has also been mining fungi for molecules with therapeutic potential — work he is commercializing though Kapoose Creek Bio, of which he is CEO. E. Brown is the first McMaster scientist to receive the Wynne Medal. He is to receive the medal this Friday, April 10, 2026 in Banff.

Albert Ashong, a PhD Student in Biomedical Engineering, has earned the Excellence in Research and Innovation Award from the Canadian Black Scientists Network. The award recognizes his exceptional innovation and leadership within Canada's Black STEM community. For Ashong, who conducts advanced biosensing research in the Faculty of Engineering's Niko Hildebrandt Lab, the honour acknowledges a journey shaped by cross-continental study, formative mentorship and a commitment to fostering research spaces where everyone feels they belong. He says receiving the award affirms the resilience, discipline and persistence that have shaped his journey as a Black scientist navigating spaces where representation is still limited.

S. Tighe shared that McMaster has become the first Ontario university to sign the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment, or DORA, joining a global initiative committed to advancing responsible, forward-looking approaches to research assessment. Signing the declaration is part of our institutional commitment to advancing meaningful ways of recognizing and rewarding research contributions.

Since its development in 2012, DORA has become a worldwide effort involving funders, publishers, institutions and researchers across all scholarly fields. CFI has signed on. Its principles challenge signatories to rethink the tools, metrics and cultural assumptions that shape academic assessment. As outlined in McMaster's Strategic Research Plan, becoming a DORA signatory reflects the university's intention to better incentivize, track, assess and reward societal engagement and impact. In the months ahead, McMaster will review its existing research assessment practices and explore opportunities to build on its culture of responsible research assessment across the University.

Senators were informed that a new exhibit featuring the exciting work of the first graduating classes of McMaster University's Integrated Arts program is now open at the McMaster Museum of Art. Launched in 2022, this unique BA and BFA degree program seated in the Faculty of Humanities fosters interdisciplinary skills in art, performance, art history, critical theory and research. Student paths include acting, game design, painting and drawing, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, playwriting, dance, and filmmaking. iArts is committed to fostering equity and diversity in society and to training caring and environmentally responsible artists. The celebration of students' work launched with a three-day festival of the arts featuring a reception at the museum, live performances at the Lyons Family Studio in LR Wilson Hall and film screenings at LR Wilson Concert Hall. The ongoing multidisciplinary exhibition brings together students' capstone projects exploring identity, memory, the body, and culture through a wide range of media, including animation, film, gaming, photography, ceramics, sculpture, printmaking, and mixed media installations. S. Tighe encouraged everyone to visit the exhibition, which remains open at the museum until June 26, 2026.

S. Tighe congratulated all researchers who received NSERC grants, noting that the results will be publicly announced shortly.

A member noted that anonymous voting (by ballot) had been conducted during a previous Zoom meeting and requested that the same approach be used for Item 9. M. MacDonald advised that the request would be reviewed.

1. Approval of Agenda – Open Session

M. MacDonald 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 April 8, 2026 and that items 2 and 3 be approved or received by Consent.

The motion was **Carried.**

CONSENT

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – March 11, 2026 (Open Session)

Motion:
that the minutes of the Open Session of the meeting held on March 11, 2026 be approved as circulated.

Approved by Consent.

3. Report from the University Planning Committee

a. Report from the Parking Services

Received by Consent.

REGULAR

4. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

5. Enquiries

There were no enquiries.

6. Communications

a. Report from the Vice-President, Research

Gianni Parise, *Vice-President, Research,* presented the report.

G. Parise presented an overview of current initiatives, including defence research, nuclear research and innovation, interdisciplinary research, and successes in securing major funding. McMaster is assessing areas where it can contribute to defence research, particularly in light of recent government announcements establishing hubs in drones and quantum technologies, with McMaster participating as a partner in several proposals. G. Parise also reported that McMaster is leading the Southern Ontario Defence Innovation

Network (SODIN) and emphasized the institution's growing recognition as a leader in radiopharmaceuticals. G. Parise outlined ongoing efforts to implement initiatives focused on accelerating commercialization and entrepreneurial activity and provided members with an overview of recent funding successes.

A member asked what measures are in place to ensure that research outputs are used for societal benefit. G. Parise responded that diverse perspectives are essential and emphasized that the focus is not on weaponizing discoveries, but on contributions such as identifying and developing sovereign supply chains and supporting local, provincial, and national economic development.

Members also raised concerns about the University's capacity to manage partnerships with s2e Technologies, and highlighted the importance of due diligence, particularly regarding energy and water use for a data centre. G. Parise noted that while a research data centre faces service challenges, current and potential partnerships present an opportunity to strengthen high-performance computing capacity. Sustainability was highlighted as a priority, with due diligence conducted by both parties.

This item was for information.

7. Report from Graduate Council

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

S. Hranilovic noted that the focus on non-degree credentials represents a new approach to engaging graduate learners beyond traditional master's and Ph.D. programs. These initiatives are supported by the framework approved by Senate in late 2025.

At its meeting on February 10, 2026, Graduate Council approved the following items:

a. Graduate Academic Certificates, Diplomas and Academic Microcredentials in Social Medicine and Entrepreneurship

Graduate Council approved four graduate credentials:

1. Graduate Academic Certificate in Social Medicine and Social Entrepreneurship
2. Graduate Academic Certificate in Social Medicine Program Design, Implementation, and Evaluation
3. Graduate Diploma in Social Medicine and Entrepreneurship

4. Microcredential in Social Medicine Ecosystems and Social Entrepreneurship

   S. Hranilovic noted that the credentials are stackable and the graduate diploma is approved by Quality Council.

   The items were voted on via an omnibus motion.

   It was duly moved and seconded,

   that Senate approve the Graduate Academic Certificates in Social Medicine and Social Entrepreneurship and Social Medicine Program Design, Implementation, and Evaluation, the Graduate Diploma in Social Medicine and Entrepreneurship and the microcredential in Social Medicine Ecosystems and Social Entrepreneurship, for inclusion in the 2026-2027 Graduate Calendar, as circulated.

   The motion was **Carried.**

   Motion:
   that Senate approve the Graduate Academic Certificate in Social Medicine and Social Entrepreneurship, for inclusion in the 2026-2027 Graduate Calendar, as circulated.

   Approved by Omnibus motion.

   Motion:
   that Senate approve the Graduate Academic Certificate in Social Medicine Program Design, Implementation, and Evaluation, for inclusion in the 2026-2027 Graduate Calendar, as circulated.

   Approved by Omnibus motion.

   Motion:
   that Senate approve the Graduate Diploma in Social Medicine and Entrepreneurship, for inclusion in the 2026-2027 Graduate Calendar, as circulated.

   Approved by Omnibus motion.

   Motion:
   that Senate approve the academic microcredential in Social Medicine Ecosystems and Social Entrepreneurship, for inclusion in the 2026-2027 Graduate Calendar, as circulated.

Approved by Omnibus motion.

b. Graduate Academic Certificates – W Booth School of Engineering Practice and Technology

Graduate Council approved the following three graduate academic certificates:

1. Graduate Academic Certificate in Rail Electrification and Signaling
2. Graduate Academic Certificate in Rail Infrastructure and Operations
3. Graduate Academic Certificate in Railway Systems and Assurance

The certificates were voted on via an omnibus motion.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the Graduate Academic Certificates in Rail Electrification and Signaling, Rail Infrastructure and Operations, and Railway Systems and Assurance for inclusion in the 2026-2027 Graduate Calendar, as circulated.

The motion was **Carried.**

Motion:
that Senate approve the Graduate Academic Certificate in Rail Electrification and Signaling for inclusion in the 2026-2027 Graduate Calendar, as circulated.

Approved by Omnibus motion.

Motion:
that Senate approve the Graduate Academic Certificate in Rail Infrastructure and Operations for inclusion in the 2026-2027 Graduate Calendar, as circulated.

Approved by Omnibus motion.

Motion:
that Senate approve the Graduate Academic Certificate in Railway Systems and Assurance for inclusion in the 2026-2027 Graduate Calendar, as circulated.

Approved by Omnibus motion.

c. Graduate Academic Certificate in Science Communication

Graduate Council reviewed and approved the Graduate Academic Certificate in Science Communication.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve, the Graduate Academic Certificate in Science Communication, for inclusion in the 2026-2027 Graduate Calendar, as circulated.

The motion was **Carried.**

M. MacDonald expressed appreciation to all those involved for demonstrating innovation and flexibility in the delivery of graduate programs.

d. Curriculum Revisions

Graduate Council approved the following curriculum revisions:

1. Faculty of Health Sciences
   a. The addition of existing admission requirements for the M.D./Ph.D. program to the Graduate Calendar and a change to the minimum MCAT CARS score;
   b. The addition of a full-time option for the Graduate Diploma in Community and Public Health.

   It was duly moved and seconded,

   that Senate approve the curriculum revisions for inclusion in the 2026-2027 Graduate Calendar, as circulated.

   The motion was **Carried.**

e. Curriculum Revisions

This item was for information.

8. Report from Undergraduate Council

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

At its meeting on March 24, 2026, the Undergraduate Council approved the following items:

a. Addenda to Curriculum Revisions for the 2026-2027 Undergraduate Calendar

1. Office of the Registrar

   Revisions include:
   - Computer Science program admission requirements updated to remove two science courses, effective September 2027.
   - Inclusion of Engineering I tracks in admission categories for Engineering I and iBioMed I.
   - Addition of Admission Category “Visiting Student (Observer)”.

   It was duly moved and seconded,

   that Senate approve the revisions to Admission Requirements and related calendar housekeeping items for inclusion in the 2026–2027 Undergraduate Calendar, and as circulated.

   The motion was **Carried.**

b. Terms of Award

This item was for information.

9. Report from the University Planning Committee

Maureen MacDonald, *Provost and Vice-President (Academic),* presented the report.

a. Proposal to Establish New Research Centres and Institutes (RCI)

1. Evidence Synthesis and Support Institute (ESSI)

   At its meeting on March 25, 2026, the University Planning Committee reviewed and approved a proposal for the establishment of the Evidence Synthesis and Support Institute (ESSI).

   M. MacDonald outlined the procedure for conducting a ballot vote. Typically, a Senator requesting a ballot vote must do so prior to any vote being taken. The request must be seconded and approved by a majority of members present.

   In response to a question regarding the rationale for the request, a Senator stated that the nature of certain matters raised in the motion could generate community concerns and may discourage members from voting in accordance with their true preferences.

   Alfonso Iorio, *Professor and Chair, Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact (HEI)* was invited to speak to the proposed institute.

A. Iorio stated that the institute's primary objectives are to enhance the visibility of the many groups engaged in evidence synthesis and to maximize opportunities for collaboration. He noted that while many contributors are involved in evidence generation, their efforts have been occurring along divergent paths, presenting challenges for external partners seeking to collaborate with McMaster. The inward-facing approach adopted during COVID enabled the delivery of timely and efficient responses, while also revealing areas of duplication and inefficiency. A. Iorio outlined the proposed staffing model and noted that the governance framework follows the standard structure used by institutes. In addition, they have identified potential colleagues from around the world for consideration as members of the external advisory board.

A Senator emphasized the importance of McMaster maintaining its leadership role and raised concerns regarding the proposed institute, particularly the integration of equity in evidence synthesis and the responsible dissemination of research to communities. They noted that a McMaster researcher contributed to U.S. legislation affecting healthcare access for transgender individuals and expressed concern about the lack of equity-focused infrastructure and a clear dissemination strategy.

A. Iorio acknowledged the issues related to the systematic review involving McMaster and noted that lessons were learned. It was clarified that the Institute's mandate extends beyond evidence synthesis and that the absence of an explicit reference to EDI in the Institute's description was unintentional. The Institute was developed by HEI, which has a strong commitment to EDI, including an EDI Associate Chair, Indigenous faculty representation, and broad support for evidence needs. EDI expectations are also included in the Director's terms of reference.

A member stressed the importance of safeguards for research funding and a controlled vetting process. It was reiterated that the current process for establishing an institute is not the space where we put specific restrictions on how funding might be acquired or approved.

G. Parise noted that the situation is regrettable and acknowledged its consequences. He explained that a group was formed immediately to review how the issue occurred and to strengthen the contract vetting process to prevent recurrence. As a result, a new process was implemented, increasing institutional oversight. While emphasizing that the proposed institute is strong and the issue raised is important, G. Parise stated that linking the issue to the institute proposal is not an appropriate approach. He advised that the matter has been addressed

and can be brought forward to Senate for information at a future date. P. O'Byrne added that the idea of carefully reviewing where research funds come from is not new, with grants routinely scrutinized and, when necessary, declined.

Following the discussion, M. MacDonald asked whether there remained a request to conduct the vote by ballot. The member confirmed that they wished to proceed with a ballot vote.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the decision for agenda item 9.a. be taken by vote by ballot, with the vote count being announced and recorded in the minutes.

The motion **Failed**; 28 opposed, 4 abstentions.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the establishment of the Evidence Synthesis and Support Institute (ESSI), as circulated.

A member thanked Senators for raising the issue and noted that the research from a Professor in HEI resulted in thousands of transgender individuals being denied access to healthcare in the United States. M. MacDonald emphasized the importance of recognizing the impact of research and advised that G. Parise would return to Senate to discuss changes.

The motion was **Carried**; 4 opposed, 5 abstentions.

The remainder of items were for information and were presented for approval through Graduate Council.

b. Graduate Academic Certificates – W Booth School of Engineering Practice and Technology
c. Graduate Academic Certificates, Diplomas and Academic Microcredentials in Social Medicine and Entrepreneurship
d. Graduate Academic Certificate in Science Communication

10. Report from the Committee on Appointments

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

At its meeting on March 23, 2026, the Committee on Appointments approved the following item and is now reporting it to Senate for approval:

a. Policy Revisions

1. Revisions to the Tenure and Promotion Policy and Supplementary Policy Statements (SPSs) Related to Teaching-Stream Faculty

   G. Luke informed Senators that the document has been updated since Senate's last review to include the following revisions:

   - Section II, 7, the phrase: "(as, for example, in professional master's programs)."
   - Section III, 24, include this sentence, "An exception to the foregoing applies when a candidate for promotion to Associate has already been granted permanence in accordance with clause 26 in this Section, in which case the criteria in clause 25 should be understood to be criteria only for promotion to Associate."
   - Section III, 34, include this sentence, "In such cases, the processes described in this Section and the criteria in clause 25 should be understood to be for promotion to Associate only."
   - Last minute title change to: Policy and Regulations on Academic Appointments, Tenure and Promotion [Tenure and Promotion Policy]
   - Revised SPS policy titles

   It was duly moved and seconded,

   that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board:

   (a) the revisions to the McMaster University Revised Policy and Regulations with Respect to Academic Appointment, Tenure and Promotion [2012] [Tenure and Promotion Policy], including the renaming of the Policy to the "Policy and Regulations on Academic Appointments, Tenure and Promotion [Tenure and Promotion Policy]," and

   (b) the revisions to the Supplementary Policy Statements,

   as circulated, effective July 1, 2026.

   G. Luke clarified that the revisions arose from negotiations between the University and MUFA through Joint Committee. The drafting committee included representatives from both MUFA and the administration, reflecting a collaborative process, with MUFA fully involved in the development and approval of the revisions.

The motion was **Carried.**

11. Report from the Committee on By-Laws

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

Senate accepted the Notice of Motion for the amendments to the Faculty of Social Sciences By-Laws at its meeting on March 11, 2026.

a. Amendments to the Faculty of Social Sciences By-Laws

At its meeting on March 31, 2026, the Committee on By-Laws reviewed and recommended that Senate approve the amendments to the Faculty of Social Sciences By-Laws.

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 Social Sciences By-Laws, as circulated.

The motion was **Carried.**

b. Update on the Senate By-Laws 10-Year Review

S. Greene noted that while the Senate By-laws are reviewed annually, a comprehensive review is conducted every 10 years. The review provides an opportunity to examine the by-laws in detail and assess their clarity, effectiveness, and alignment with current practices. The Committee began this work in September and expects to complete draft revisions within the coming weeks.

The recommended changes include:

- removing the Senate committee terms of reference from the By-laws
- expanding the scope of the Executive Committee to include governance responsibilities, such as reviewing the effectiveness and performance of Senate
- Retiring the Ceremonials and Insignia Committee and moving its work to the Executive Committee
- Reducing the number of Senate Observers
- Adding a Principles and Expectations section
- Changing the meeting protocol system to one that is more accessible.
- Replacing legalistic language with plain language
- Re-organizing the by-laws. Sections were merged or re-ordered and re-numbered.

The Committee is considering advancing the start time of Senate meetings from 3:30 to 3:00 p.m. Given that some Senators begin to leave after 5:00 p.m. due to other commitments, an earlier start may support inclusivity, fuller participation, particularly for early-career faculty. The Committee would like to gauge Senators' interest in this proposed change today.

Members raised questions about the rationale for reducing the number of observers, potential impacts on student Senators due to class end times, and the history of the 3:30 p.m. meeting start time. It was clarified that broader by-law revisions can be considered later, and that the current discussion is limited to the proposed Senate start time. The Committee intends to bring the revised Senate By-laws to the May meeting. It was noted that alternative starting times, including 2:30 p.m., could be considered. A. Thyret-Kidd noted that Senate previously met at 3:00 p.m. and shifted to 3:30 p.m. to align with class end times.

Members expressed support for an earlier start time, noting that earlier start and end times would be more inclusive, particularly for parents of young children.

S. Greene added that draft revisions will be circulated by email during the week of April 13 to allow time for review. Feedback will be accepted until May 1, 2026, with approval of the By-laws planned for the May and June Senate meetings.

12. Report from the Committee on Student Affairs

Sean Van Koughnett, *Chair of the Committee on Student Affairs*, presented the report.

a. Revisions to the Policy on Student Groups

At its meeting on March 25, 2026 the Committee on Student Affairs approved revisions to the Policy on Student Groups.

The revisions reflect feedback received from University Health & Safety, the Ombuds, the MSU, the GSA, MAPS, Legal Services and the Associate Deans, Assistant Deans and Program Managers who approve student events. The memo outlines the proposed changes at a high level and both a track change and a clean copy of the revisions have been provided to Senators.

Additionally, the committee recommends that the Policy on Fraternities, Sororities and Honour Societies be terminated and moved into this policy as an appendix.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the revised Policy on Student Groups (Recognition, Risk Assessment, and Event Planning) and the termination of the Policy on Fraternities, Sororities, and Honour Societies (2000), effective May 1, 2026.

A Senator thanked S. Van Koughnett for his work on the policy and raised concerns about its enforcement in a specific situation, emphasizing the need for consistent and non-selective application. S. Van Koughnett confirmed that the policy is being enforced in the matter raised and that no decision has been made regarding the club's proposal. He noted that the revised policy strengthens communication and clarifies how the Student Affairs Office engages with MSU and MAPS.

The motion was **Carried.**

13. Other Business

a. Presentation

Laurel Trainor, *Director, McMaster Institute for Music and the Mind*

M. MacDonald introduced L. Trainor noting that she is a Professor of Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour here at McMaster, whose many honors include being named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, a Fellow of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science, and a McMaster Distinguished University Professor.

L. Trainor delivered a presentation on rhythm and timing, emphasizing the importance of singing to infants and its significant impact on development. L. Trainor highlighted research conducted in the LIVELab, exploring how musicians synchronize with one another, audience responses, and community outreach initiatives.

M. MacDonald thanked L. Trainor for the presentation and encouraged members to connect with L. Trainor.

This item was for information.

There was no other business.