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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE
VOL. CXLII
Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 3:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Susan Tighe (Chair), Rasheed Ahmad, Catherine Anderson, Paul Andrews, Blaise Bourdin, Steven Bray, Mark Crowther, Kim Dej, Arlene Dosen, Saher Fazilat, Tina Fetner, Carlos Filipe, Catherine Frost, Gillian Goward, Saara Greene, Khaled Hassanein, Steve Hranilovic, Jerry Hurley, Manish Kacker, Ridha Khedri, Marc-Andre Letendre, Graeme Luke, Maureen MacDonald, Sue McCracken, Michael McGillion, Logan McLean, Alex Mouriopoulos, Bruce Newbold, Paul O'Byrne, Tracy Prowse, Erin Rebello, Erin Reid, Stacey Ritz, Mohammad Salhia, Nicholas Serruys, Heather Sheardown, Shahram Shirani, Abdalla Talaat, Patrick Tobias, Tom Venner, Sarah Wojkowski, 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: Faiza Hirji, Lili Litwin, Gianni Parise, Kalai Saravanamuttu, Dennis Souder, Pamela Swett

OBSERVERS: Carolyn Brendon, Dina Brooks, Sandra Carroll, Sarah Dickson-Anderson, Darran Fernandez, Matheus Grasselli, Bhagwati Gupta, Martin Horn, Bonny Ibhawoh, Vivian Lewis, Elizabeth Marquis, Clare Mitchell, Piper Plavins, Ellen Pocobelli, Melissa Pool, Sean Van Koughnett, Barrington Walker

GUESTS: Beverly Jacobs

OPEN SESSION

Susan Tighe 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. We recognize the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples and commit to respectful partnership and stewardship.

S. Tighe advised that the celebration of Black History Month in February was very successful, closing with a special event in LR Wilson Hall featuring the participation of our new Chancellor Nicholas Brathwaite, and Jean Augustine, the driving force behind Canada's celebration of Black History Month, Dr. Pamela Appelt, the first Black Canadian woman appointed to the Court of Canadian Citizenship and Dr. Gary Warner, who is celebrated for his academic career and five decades of devotion to public service focusing on justice, equity and community well-being.

Everyone has an important opportunity and responsibility not just to recognize, but to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Black people and communities, particularly given the long and devastating impact of racism, both historical and current, which has sought to minimize or erase these achievements and contributions. S. Tighe thanked the many organizers of the month's activities, including the team in our Equity and Inclusion Office and the Black History Month Planning Committee.

McMaster participated enthusiastically in events leading up to International Women's Day this year, and S. Tighe shared some highlights:

- Women from the McMaster community fared particularly well at the YWCA's annual Women of Distinction Awards night last Thursday, earning awards in seven of the evening's nine categories, including:
    - Chancellor Emeritus Santee Smith, a renowned dancer, choreographer and sculptor who earned the Arts and Culture Award;
    - Sarah Kalmanovitch, who graduated in 2025, earned the Young Trailblazer Award;
    - Kim Ritchie, a McMaster Social Work graduate, was honored as Community Champion;
    - Professor Karen Hill from the Department of Family Medicine, a two-time McMaster graduate, won the award for Education;
    - McMaster graduate and associate professor Sheryl Green, a clinical and health psychologist, won the award for Health and Wellness.

  The nominees and winners were congratulated.

- The Office of the Provost and Wilson College of Leadership and Civic Engagement presented an event featuring Catherine McKenna, a former federal cabinet minister, leader, changemaker, and author of the new book, *Run Like a Girl*.

- The McMaster Marauders Women's Athletic Leadership Committee presented a conversation around women in sport and leadership featuring McMaster student and two-time Olympic figure skater Maddie Schizas; Kat Clewley, former goalkeeper for the Canadian Women's Soccer Team, and Carla Edwards, team psychiatrist for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats and the Toronto Rock.

- S. Tighe was honored to participate in panel discussions at three events related to International Women's Day: Play to Win, a university event at the Ron Joyce Centre; Women Leaders and Allies, a Burlington Chamber of Commerce event at the Burlington Holiday Inn and Conference Centre; and the BGIS International Women's Day event organized by Brookfield Global Integrated Solutions, which took place at the Omni King Edward Hotel in Toronto.

S. Tighe recognized important recent honors for members of the McMaster community, including five who were appointed to the Order of Ontario and five who have separately

been named to the newer Order of Hamilton. The 2025 recipients of the Order of Ontario, the province's highest civilian honour, include McMaster faculty member P.J. Devereaux, graduates Jean-Robert Bernier and John L. Semple, and honorary degree recipients Joe Mancinelli and Claudette McGowan. The Order recognizes Ontarians from a wide range of fields who have made profound contributions to the province and beyond through their achievements and service.

S. Tighe also recognized five members of the McMaster community who recently received the 2025 Order of Hamilton. Recipients Gary Warner, Alex Sévigny and Mark John Stewart are faculty members, and Jessica Bonilla-Damptey and Nagham Azzam-Iqbal are McMaster graduates. The Order of Hamilton recognizes the exceptional contributions of residents who voluntarily work to build a better city, beyond their professional contributions. These members of our community were congratulated for their impressive work in service to others.

McMaster researchers secured more than $12.2 million for 20 projects in the latest Canadian Institutes for Health Research competition. Our 13 per cent success rate is in line with the provincial average and slightly below the national rate of 16 per cent. While this is lower than our typical performance, the drop likely reflects a significant increase in submissions — nearly 60 per cent more applications than last fall's competition and 23 per cent more than spring 2025.

Canada Foundation for Innovation results will be announced Friday, and will highlight significant success for McMaster, with three Innovation Fund awards receiving a combined $35.6 million.

S. Tighe advised that work to develop the new strategic plan, *Setting the Course*, is progressing well and they are well into consultations across campus. A strategic effort is underway to reach as many members of the broader McMaster community as possible to gather direct input on priority areas and the qualities that distinguish McMaster. Over the past few weeks, the team's work has included pop-ups in student spaces, a campus-wide survey and a student competition to generate ideas. The next few weeks will feature more than 80 focus-group consultations, drop-in sessions, consultations with alumni and external partners, office-hours, and designated sessions – both virtual and in person for faculty and staff groups – to make participating as easy as possible. Staff sessions for TMG and Unifor colleagues will run from March 25 through April 1, and faculty sessions from March 26 through April 1, with multiple time options in each format. Details are available on the Setting the Course website.

1. Approval of Agenda – Open Session

S. Tighe noted that there is a request to present the Setting the Course Consultation Session (item 11.b.) prior to the Report from the Provost (item 5.a.).

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the Open Session agenda as amended for the meeting of March 11, 2026 and that item 2 be approved by Consent.

The motion was **Carried.**

CONSENT

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

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

Approved by Consent.

REGULAR

3. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

4. Enquiries

There were no enquiries.

5. Communications

a. Setting the Course Consultation Session

Margaret Zanel, *Partner, Strategy and Leadership Wentworth Strategy Group*, and Sue McCracken, *Professor, Accounting & Financial Management Services,* facilitated the session.

Members were provided with an overview of the strategic planning process and participated in a guided discussion where they had the opportunity to provide insights into McMaster's values and culture, purpose and impact and key priorities.

This item was for information.

b. Report from the Provost

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

Members received an overview of the Ontario government's new funding announcement, related advocacy efforts that influenced changes to grant mechanisms, and emerging concerns about student affordability. M. MacDonald expressed appreciation to leadership, the Vice-President, Research Office, and campus collaborators for the Canada Impact+ Awards.

This item was for information.

6. Report from Graduate Council

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

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

a. Changes to the Administrative Sections of the Graduate Calendar

S. Hranilovic explained that the revisions include changes to the stacking and laddering framework for graduate microcredentials, a pilot for combined bachelors and masters offers of admissions where excellent students can receive an advanced offer of admission to a master's program. A new section was added in the Calendar to address the use of generative AI in programs.

It was duly moved and seconded,

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

The motion was **Carried.**

The remainder of items were for information.

b. Sessional Dates
c. Revisions to the Aid and Awards Policy

7. Report from Undergraduate Council

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

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

a. Revisions to the Aid and Awards Policy

Undergraduate Council reviewed and approved revisions to the Aid and Awards Policy on February 24, 2026.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the proposed revisions to the University Aid and Awards Policy, effective March 11, 2026.

The motion was **Carried.**

b. New Academic Microcredential in Equitable Activity, Mobility, and Community Health

At the same meeting, the Undergraduate Council reviewed and approved a new academic Microcredential in Equitable Activity, Mobility, and Community Health.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the academic Microcredential in Equitable Activity, Mobility, and Community Health for inclusion in the 2026-2027 Undergraduate Calendar, and as circulated.

The motion was **Carried.**

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

At the same meeting, the Undergraduate Council reviewed and approved the following recommendations from the Faculty of Humanities:

- Establishment of the Combined Honours Music & Another Subject (Biology) (B.A.) as a major modification to the existing Combined Honours Music & Another Subject (B.A.) program
- Establishment of the Combined Honours Music & Another Subject (Mathematics) (B.A.) as a major modification to the existing Combined Honours Music & Another Subject (B.A.) program
- Establishment of the Combined Honours Music & Another Subject (Physics) (B.A.) as a major modification to the existing Combined Honours Music & Another Subject (B.A.) program

The curriculum revisions were voted on via an omnibus motion.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the establishment of:
• Combined Honours Music & Another Subject (Biology) (B.A.)
• Combined Honours Music & Another Subject (Mathematics) (B.A.)
• Combined Honours Music & Another Subject (Physics) (B.A.)
as major modifications to the existing Combined Honours Music & Another Subject (B.A.) program for inclusion in the 2026–2027 Undergraduate Calendar, and as circulated.

In response to a question about the specific disciplines, it was clarified that students are already engaged in these areas and have shown clear interest.

The motion was **Carried.**

Motion:
that Senate approve the establishment of the Combined Honours Music & Another Subject (Biology) (B.A.) as a major modification to the existing Combined Honours Music & Another Subject (B.A.) program, for inclusion in the 2026–2027 Undergraduate Calendar, and as circulated.

Approved by Omnibus motion.

Motion:
that Senate approve the establishment of the Combined Honours Music & Another Subject (Mathematics) (B.A.) as a major modification to the existing Combined Honours Music & Another Subject (B.A.) program, for inclusion in the 2026–2027 Undergraduate Calendar, and as circulated.

Approved by Omnibus motion.

Motion:
that Senate approve the establishment of the Combined Honours Music & Another Subject (Physics) (B.A.) as a major modification to the existing Combined Honours Music & Another Subject (B.A.) program, for inclusion in the 2026–2027 Undergraduate Calendar, and as circulated.

Approved by Omnibus motion.

d. Terms of Award

This item was for information.

8. Report from the Committee on Appointments

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

At its meeting on February 23, 2026, the Committee on Appointments received the following item and is now reporting it to Senate for information:

a. Policy Revisions

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

   It was explained that these changes are for information now and feedback and questions are welcome. The intention is to bring a final version to the Committee on Appointments and Senate for approval at a later date.

   M. MacDonald highlighted that the Tenure and Promotion Policy has not been revised in a number of years. The review followed a mandated scope, and suggestions falling outside that scope have been retained for future consideration.

   This item was for information.

9. Report from the Committee on Student Affairs

a. Residence Agreement/Contract 2026-2027

This item was for information.

10. Report from the Faculty of Social Sciences

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 the next Senate meeting for final approval.

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

Jerry Hurley, *Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences,* presented an overview of the proposed by-law revisions, highlighting housekeeping updates, the addition of a new school, and the transition of an ad hoc committee to a standing committee.

It was duly moved and seconded,

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

The motion was **Carried.**

11. Other Business

a. IQAP Process

Kim Dej, *Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning*, and Steve Hranilovic, *Vice-Provost & Dean of Graduate Studies,* presented the item.

Members received a brief overview of the process, noting that the quality assurance review occurs every eight years and involves collaboration across all Faculties. Instructional videos have been developed for reviewers, and plans include adding a feedback component and providing an annual report on recurring trends.

A member noted that some external reviewers reported negative experiences with virtual visits and were not aware in advance that the review would be conducted virtually. The member questioned the cost savings of virtual reviews. It was noted that participants are informed of the virtual component when they are invited. S. Hranilovic explained that in-person reviews are prioritized only where essential, and virtual visits offer cost savings and enable participation from international reviewers who cannot commit to a full week on campus.

Members were encouraged to review the reports.

This item was for information.