

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE VOL.CXXV

Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., Council Chambers, Gilmour Hall Room 111

PRESENT: David Farrar (Chair), Maxwell Altman, Sonia Anand, Paul Andrews, James Benn, Kusum Bhatta, Mark Boda, Blaise Bourdin, Narat Charupat, Juanita Debarros, Kim Dej, Arlene Dosen, David Feinberg, Carlos Filipe, Omolade George, James Gillett, Saara Greene, Khaled Hassanein, Steve Hranilovic, Jialiang Hu, Jeremiah Hurley, Suleiman Igdoura, Rishav Jaiswal, Manish Kacker, Andy Knights, Graeme Luke, Sue McCracken, Neil McLaughlin, Alex Mouriopoulos, Olakunle Ologun, Joëlle Papillon, Gianni Parise, Tracy Prowse, Stacey Ritz, Rachelle Sabourin, Kalai Saravanamuttu, Heather Sheardown, Shahram Shirani, Jaeyoon Song, Dennis Souder, Pamela Swett, Susan Tighe, Brenda Vrkljan, Zimo Wang, Renae Watchman, Kerry Yang, Margaret Zanel, Andrea Thyret-Kidd (*University Secretary*), Michelle Zheng (*Associate University Secretary*), Alysha Sless (*Assistant University Secretary*)

REGRETS: Hfsa Awan, Dina Brooks, Lorraine Carter, Saher Fazilat, Faiza Hirji, Alfonso Iorio, Lili Litwin, Sanamdeep Matharu, Michael McGillion, Paul O'Byrne

OBSERVERS: Carolyn Brendon, Sandra Carroll, Rosa da Silva, Andrea Farquhar, Darran Fernandez, Matheus Grasselli, Martin Horn, Priya John, Vivian Lewis, Elisabeth Marquis, Melissa Pool, Karen Richmond, Sean Van Koughnett, Barrington Walker, Rob Walters, Sarah Wojkowski

OPEN SESSION

David Farrar, President & Vice-Chancellor, welcomed everyone to the first Senate Meeting of the 2024/25 Academic year. D. Farrar added that it is great to be back on campus and to see our students return to campus, and to experience the energy and excitement they bring with them.

D. Farrar 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:	Sue McCracken
Faculty of Engineering:	Shahram Shirani
Faculty of Humanities:	Juanita Debarros, Jaeyoon Song

Faculty of Social Sciences:	James Gillett, Neil McLaughlin, Tracy Prowse
Faculty of Science:	David Feinberg
Faculty of Health Sciences:	Sonia Anand
Undergraduate Students:	Jialiang Hu, Omolade George
Graduate Students:	Olakunle Oluwakorede Ologun, Rachelle Sabourin
Alumni Representative:	Alex Mouriopoulos
Board Representative:	Rishav Jaiswal, Arlene Dosen
New Appointment:	
Dean, Faculty of Science (Acting):	Gianni Parise
Reappointments:	
Vice-President (Research) (Acting):	Andy Knights
Re-Elected:	
Faculty of Health Sciences:	Michael McGillion
Faculty of Science:	Kalai Saravanamuttu
Graduate Student:	Kusum Bhatta
Alumni Representative:	Dennis Souder

D. Farrar reinforced some points from his message to the McMaster community, which was posted on the Daily News last week. The central message is that McMaster must be a place where everyone can belong. These polarizing global issues are extremely difficult to navigate but it is our responsibility to find a way to do so that is inclusive and respectful to one another. Over the last few months, a great deal of commentary and correspondence has been received regarding the encampment that took place on our campus. While it is clear that some members of our community experienced this as a peaceful, non-threatening, inclusive event, it is also clear that other members of our community felt targeted, threatened and afraid. These are both valid lived experiences. As a university community we need to acknowledge and accept the diverse range of responses to such polarizing events and create an environment that upholds freedom of expression alongside our values of building community and embracing diverse voices and perspectives.

September 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. From September 23 to 27, there will be a number of events on campus to commemorate this important day, and to deepen our understanding of the history and continuing impact of the residential school system. Details will be available on the Daily News in the coming days.

D. Farrar informed Senators that Elder-in-Residence Bertha Skye, sadly passed away in July. Bertha was a Cree Elder who provided invaluable guidance, friendship, and support to many in the McMaster community. She played an integral role in shaping the growth and success of the Indigenous community at McMaster. Bertha's cultural teachings, kindness, and wisdom were an inspiration to many, and she will be missed.

On October 5, the McMaster Students Union (MSU) and Student Affairs are reintroducing a day of Homecoming events to kick off the fall term. This is a great opportunity to welcome our students back to McMaster and foster community and connection on our campus. Events include the Homecoming football game, which will see McMaster take on the Western Mustangs. There will also be an afternoon of activities for students including the world's largest obstacle course. This will be followed by an evening concert on JHE field.

Last week, Judah Denburg, Hendrik Poinar and Louis Schmidt were named Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada. Nathan Andrews, Michelle Kho, Matthew Miller and Hsien Seow have been named members of Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists. This is a great achievement, and all were congratulated.

D. Farrar acknowledged Daphne Maurer, a Distinguished University Professor from the Department of Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour, who was recently appointed to the Order of Canada. This is a tremendous accomplishment, and congratulations were offered.

A member expressed interest in how we navigate different perspectives and difficult challenges while balancing responsibilities like freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. They noted that they sensed some tension in the statement around occupying space on campus and that there is a commitment to campus being a space for dialogue, sharing ideas and controversial issues. They asked where the University stands around that and the right to peaceful assembly. D. Farrar agreed that there is a right to peaceful assembly and that those in the encampment were not threatened, but others walking around campus felt threatened and it had a real effect on campus. There is a difference between peaceful assembly and taking over a part of campus. Peaceful assemblies are allowed, but we will not allow an encampment to form.

Members discussed how people feel threatened for multiple reasons, it is not a reason to remove the right to protest, and that it is important not to outwardly dismiss the voices of those who felt threatened.

1. Approval of Agenda – Open Session

D. Farrar confirmed that no requests had been received to move items from the 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 11, 2024 and that items 2 through 5 be approved or received by Consent.

The motion was **Carried**.

CONSENT

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – June 5, 2024 (Open Session)

Motion:

that the minutes of the Open Session of the meeting held on June 5, 2024 be approved as circulated.

Approved by Consent.

3. Communications

a. General Senate Information

- 1. Senate Primer and Confidentiality**
- 2. Senate Meeting Schedule for 2024-2025**
- 3. Senate Committee List for 2024-2025**
- 4. Senate Membership List for 2024-2025**

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, 2024**
- 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 of the PhD Program, Faculty of Business**

Received by Consent.

5. Report from the Committee on Appointments

a. Terms of Reference

- 1. Establishment of the Schroeder Chair in Undergraduate Nursing Pedagogy**

Motion:

that Senate approve the establishment of the Schroeder Chair in Undergraduate Nursing Pedagogy, as circulated.

Approved by Consent.

2. Revised Terms of Reference - Mortgage Intelligence – GMAC Residential Funding of Canada Chair in Thoracic Surgery

Motion:

that Senate approve the revised terms of reference for the Mortgage Intelligence/ GMAC Residential Funding of Canada Chair in Thoracic Surgery, as circulated.

Approved by Consent.

3. Establishment of the Marianne Barrie - PHRI Chair in ARVC Research

Motion:

that Senate approve the establishment of the Marianne Barrie/ PHRI Chair in ARVC Research, as circulated.

Approved by Consent.

4. Establishment of the McMaster Professorship in Rheumatology Education

Motion:

that Senate approve the establishment of the McMaster Professorship in Rheumatology Education, as circulated.

Approved by Consent.

REGULAR

6. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

7. Enquiries

There were no enquiries.

8. Communications

a. Preliminary Enrolment Figures

Matheus Grasselli, *Deputy Provost*, and Steve Hranilovic, *Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies*, provided a verbal report on the preliminary undergraduate and graduate enrolment figures.

M. Grasselli explained that McMaster University continues to be the University with the second largest number of applications in the province. There were over 70,000 applications which was an overall increase of 2.5% from last year. There were 7% more offers than last year and 6% more acceptances than last year. Most of the applications, 58,000, were from domestic students and international applications were down across the sector. There were 12% less applicants, 10% fewer offers, and 15% fewer confirmations. M. Grasselli noted that all the Faculties did a good job and that there was only a 5% decrease in the international student registration compared to last year. M. Grasselli explained that McMaster's targets were aspirational for this year and changes from the Federal Government impacted international student enrolment. Currently McMaster is 4% over target in registration and 10% above target for domestic students. The total undergraduate enrolment at all levels is relatively flat at 31,000 with domestic being up by 1% and international down by 13%.

A member asked for clarification around how the target is set, by whom, and whether consideration is given to resources such as faculty numbers, seats and buildings. M. Grasselli explained that the targets are set by consultations with a number of individuals and Deans. They consider capacity, teaching and infrastructure, examine the international market, consult with Student Affairs, Financial Affairs and recruiters. It then goes to Provost Council and the Provost sets the final targets.

In response to questions around the corridor funding, residence and financial implications, M. Grasselli explained that McMaster is currently above the corridor funding. Sean Van Koughnett, *Associate Vice-President (Students and Learning) & Dean of Students*, explained that there is always a wait list for residence. When Lincoln Alexander Hall is completed, all first-year students will be offered a space in residence pending no increase in enrollment. Currently, residence offers are based on admission averages and communicated on a student's offer letter. Susan Tighe, *Provost and Vice-President, Academic*, explained that not meeting the international targets does impact McMaster's revenues and examining the impact on revenues has begun. Going into the budget cycle for the fall, financial prudence will continue to be needed. S. Tighe noted the importance of retention. Some institutions are down significantly in their international student numbers. S. Tighe gave credit to the recruiters in the Faculties and centrally who helped to bring students to McMaster.

S. Hranilovic explained that as of September 6, 2024, overall enrolment in graduate studies was stable. In Engineering there was a 4.2% increase, Business and Health Sciences remained stable, and the other Faculties decreased. International student enrolment stayed steady and S. Hranilovic noted that graduate students are exempt from the caps put in place.

A member noted that there are variables that impact international enrolment such as the Federal Government increasing the minimum deposit for visas and the increase in the length of time to obtain a visa.

This item was for information.

b. COU Academic Colleagues Report

This item was for information.

9. Report from the Faculty of Humanities

D. Farrar 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.

Pamela Swett, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, presented the report.

P. Swett explained that the proposed revisions to the By-Laws include basic housekeeping, the updating of titles, the addition of committees and revisions to simplify the elections process.

It was duly moved and seconded,

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

The motion was **Carried**.

10. Other Business

a. Request from the Committee for Recommending a President

Heather Sheardown, *Vice-Chair, Committee for Recommending a President*, provided an overview of the report. H. Sheardown explained that the Committee has been working diligently and is making good progress. The Committee is requesting an extension to the nine-month timeline as their work will not be completed by the deadline.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve an extension of the nine-month reporting deadline for the Committee for Recommending a President until December 31, 2024.

A member asked for clarification around the extension. It was explained that the original nine-month deadline took the Committee to September 30, 2024, and they are requesting an extension until December 31, 2024.

The motion was **Carried**.

A member raised a concern around one of the appeal files in the closed session. The member noted that the student lost their appeal and there is a concern around the pattern of all students losing grievances, especially against their supervisor. The member stated there is an urgent need for consistent supervisory guidelines across the University, noted the power imbalance and that students feel unsupported. There are concerns around the length of time to schedule the hearing and the length of the actual hearing meeting. The member asked to revisit the structure of the Student Board for Senate Appeals.

D. Farrar advised that the item is in closed session and that the issues raised were not on the agenda so not all the information is available. This item will be brought back after consulting with the Secretariat.

Members echoed their support of the concern noting the structural power dynamics.

S. Hranilovic added that the graduate supervision component of teaching needs to be nurtured and supported. Graduate students have unique relationships with supervisors. S. Hranilovic noted that there are initiatives to make students aware of their responsibilities and rights. There are Associate Deans in all Faculties who provide support.