

McMaster University

SENATE MINUTES

VOL. CIX

Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.
Council Chambers (111), Gilmour Hall

PRESENT: Dr. David Farrar, Mr. Ahmed Abdalla, Dr. Alfonso Iorio, Ms Brenda O'Connor, Dr. Brenda Vrkljan, Dr. Claudia Emerson, D. Dina Brooks, Dr. Heather Sheardown, Dr. Hendrik Poinar, Dr. James Benn, Dr. Jeff Weitz, Dr. Jeremiah Hurley, Mr. Jim McCaughey, Dr. Joëlle Papillon, Dr. Karen Mossman, Dr. Kim Dej, Mx Kusum Bhatta, Dr. Lorraine Carter, Dr. Maikel Rheinstadter, Dr. Manaf Zargoush, Dr. Mark Boda, Mr. Mark Fahmy, Dr. Mark Walton, Dr. Matthew Miller, Dr. Maureen MacDonald, Dr. Melinda Gough, Mr. Moustafa Naiem Abdel-Mooty, Dr. Narat Charupat, Dr. Nathan Andrews, Dr. Pamela Swett, Dr. Pau Pujolas, Dr. Paul Andrews, Dr. Paul Faure, Dr. Paul O'Byrne, Dr. Renae Watchman, Dr. Rick Monture, Ms Saher Fazilat, Dr. Steve Hranilovic, Dr. Susan Tighe, Dr. Todd Hoare, Dr. Wael El-Dakhkhni, Andrea Thyret-Kidd (University Secretary), Ms Michelle Zheng (Associate University Secretary), Ms Alysha Sless (Assistant University Secretary)

OBSERVERS: Ms Andrea Farquhar, Ms Carolyn Brendon, Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh, Dr. Elisabeth Marquis, Dr. Katherine Cuff, Dr. Matheus Grasselli, Ms Melissa Pool, Mr. Rob Walters, Dr. Sandra Carroll, Mr. Sean Van Koughnett, Dr. Sonia Anand, Dr. Steven Bray, Dr. Susan Denburg, Ms Vivian Lewis

REGRETS: Ms Debbie Martin, Dr. Lia Bronsard, Dr. Deborah Sloboda, Ms Heva Olfman, Dr. Chris Sinding, Ms Shaden Ahmed, Dr. Khaled Hassanein, Dr. Sue McCracken, Mr. Findley McSevney

A. OPEN SESSION

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Farrar welcomed members to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year. Dr. Farrar acknowledged that McMaster is located on the traditional territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee nations and within the lands protected by the Dish with One Spoon wampum agreement.

Dr. Farrar noted that Senators raised some important issues and questions at the last meeting and that we heard from students and others who had taken the time to attend the meeting to make their voices heard. One of the matters raised at the December meeting is a broader question related to the longstanding and ongoing operation of collegial governance at McMaster. Understanding collegial governance, the ways that decisions are made, where responsibility falls, and the multiple avenues to raise and discuss questions and concerns at McMaster, is an important issue

for Senate. Yesterday Senators received an email from the University Secretary regarding an additional session for Senators to discuss and better understand the history and principles of collegial governance at McMaster. Members were encouraged to respond to the Secretariat and advise of any specific questions they may have. Dr. Farrar advised that he will work with the Secretariat on how to organize the session which will include Senators, the University Administration and other key stakeholders.

Dr. Farrar explained that as the Chair of Senate, he has the responsibility for ensuring that the important work of Senate, which manages and oversees the academic work of the University, is able to continue and that regular Senate business and pre-circulated agenda items are dealt with properly and promptly. The Senate agenda is developed ahead of time, so that Senators are provided with details of items with enough time to allow for full participation in the discussion. Normally, items are first presented at a committee, so that a smaller group of Senators have been able to thoroughly discuss the issues and make recommendations. Although Senators have the ability to raise additional items for discussion directly at Senate, there are multiple other avenues, as part of our collegial governance processes, where questions and concerns can be raised. Like most universities in Ontario, McMaster uses a collegial and shared governance model, with finance and operational matters addressed by the Board of Governors, and academic matters addressed by the Senate. Dr. Farrar noted that at McMaster, we are unique in that we also have a Joint Committee, which by its mandate addresses issues related to the working conditions of those faculty members who are members of MUFA. A further component of collegial governance is the many other avenues which faculty members can use to discuss issues that are important to them. In addition to the Joint Committee, there are Senate committees and MUFA. Faculty members can also connect directly with Dr. Farrar, the Provost or any of the other senior leaders.

Dr. Farrar provided a brief update on the other issues raised at the December Senate meeting. Two faculty members raised an inquiry regarding the university's Persona Non Grata (PNG) Declarations policy. At its core, the PNG policy is designed to help ensure the safety of the campus and the McMaster Community and is only used when necessary. The University has always had the ability to issue a trespass notice when safety may be compromised. The formal PNG policy adds elements of transparency and procedural fairness to the process, including the ability to have a PNG notice reviewed by a senior leader. A number of specific questions about the PNG policy were raised, which are being addressed by the University Secretariat. This discussion is being referred to the Senate Executive Committee in the first instance, before returning to a future Senate meeting with an update.

The December Senate meeting occurred just after a tentative agreement was reached with Teaching Assistants and Research Assistants but before the agreement was fully ratified. Dr. Farrar explained that he recognizes that the strike was a challenging time for many at McMaster and that he is relieved that the deal has been fully ratified and we can focus on the start of the winter term. Senators had raised some questions regarding the details of some communications during the strike. The Provost has followed up with individuals and also sent a message to all faculty just before the end of the term.

Graduate student funding is a critical issue. Dr. Farrar noted that as mentioned during the discussion at the December Senate meeting, McMaster's Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr. Steve

Hranilovic, struck an ad hoc committee last June to begin to address this critical issue. Dr. Hranilovic explained that the issue of graduate funding is an ongoing question. The ad hoc committee includes Dr. Hranilovic and Graduate Associate Deans. The mandate for the committee is to gather graduate funding data to understand the compensation going to students. They will monitor and review graduate funding and obtain input from stakeholders. The next mandate will be to take the data and propose a structure for a review process. This work is being done in the context of Graduate Council who reports directly to Senate. The membership of Graduate Council includes administration, faculty and students.

Dr. Farrar reminded members that the University is in the process of developing a new University Campus Master Plan to create a vision for the future development of McMaster's campus and locations. The ideas in the developing plan were informed by feedback from students, faculty, staff and community members. Discussions include: re-imagining key entrances to campus; safe and sustainable transportation; the importance of broader sustainability advancements; more housing options and green spaces; and the creation of spaces to innovate and collaborate. The University Secretariat forwarded an email in December informing Senators and Observers about two opportunities to provide feedback. Today, in the MUSC Marketplace, there is a drop-in session continuing until 7:00 p.m. to learn more about the five key areas of focus and to provide feedback. Alternatively, there is an online survey which is available until Sunday. More information and the survey link is available on the Daily News and in the email members received.

Dr. Farrar explained that they are continuing to advocate at the provincial and federal levels of government for increased funding. They will be working with the Council of Ontario Universities, Universities Canada, and the U15 on pre-budget submissions to the provincial and federal governments. Dr. Farrar added that they are anticipating a Blue Ribbon panel to review Ontario's post-secondary sector and they will be engaging with government as this process develops. The Council of Ontario Universities will be meeting tomorrow with the Deputy Minister of Colleges and Universities and Dr. Farrar advised that they will emphasize the importance of financial stability for universities.

Dr. Farrar invited questions from members.

In response to a question regarding including graduate students on the ad hoc committee, Dr. Hranilovic explained that the focus of the Committee is on collecting data and obtaining information for analysis that will be shared broadly. Students are a part of Graduate Council and there will be no shortage of consultations. The Committee will also be considering funding across all Faculties. Members suggested including Graduate Chairs, graduate students and the GSA. They noted that Graduate Chairs are often the first point of contact, and that fifth-year funding should also be considered. Dr. Hranilovic added that the ad hoc committee is chaired by two associate deans who come from different funding contexts.

A member thanked Dr. Farrar for the remarks about collegial governance and for the University Secretariat for inquiring about interest for a special session on collegial governance. The member explained that by definition, collegial governance means that faculty members trust each other to properly govern themselves. The member suggested including MUFA in the session and noted

that it is vital because the MUFA Executive forms one-half of the Joint Committee, which is at the core of the collegial governance structure at McMaster. To make the best use of time, the member proposed including presentations to proceed the discussion, such as the history of collegial governance at McMaster, how McMaster's collegial governance functions and current challenges to the structure. Dr. Farrar noted that they fully expect MUFA to be a participant in the session. Dr. Tighe added that they had spoken with MUFA and the President of MUFA has agreed to participate.

A member asked about including more students on the ad hoc committee for graduate funding. Dr. Hranilovic explained that the proceedings at Graduate Council are public, and anyone can attend. The work of the ad hoc committee will be largely an administrative process and involves going through administrative databases. The ad hoc committee is a precursor to produce the resources for stakeholders to review. Dr. Hranilovic advised that they will engage graduate chairs, students, CUPE and MUFA.

A member noted their appreciation for the comments about PNG and asked when the item will return to Senate. Dr. Farrar advised that the item is going to the Senate Executive Committee later this month and the intention is to bring it back to Senate in March.

Dr. Farrar informed Senators that in our efforts to fulfill McMaster's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusivity, they will be invited to complete McMaster's confidential diversity survey. A link to the survey will be emailed following today's meeting.

1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA – OPEN SESSION

Dr. 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 January 11, 2023 and that item 2 be approved by Consent.

The motion was **carried**.

CONSENT

2 MINUTES of the Meeting of December 14, 2022 – Open Session

Motion:

that the minutes of the Open Session of the meeting held on December 14, 2022 be approved as circulated.

Approved by Consent.

REGULAR

3 BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

4 ENQUIRIES

There were no enquires.

5 COMMUNICATIONS**a. Enrolment Figures**

Mr. Sean Van Koughnett, Associate Vice-President (Students & Learning) and Dean of Students, presented the undergraduate enrolment figures. Mr. Van Koughnett explained that relative to last year, full-time enrolment has increased by 0.2%. There have been some issues with level 1 intake due to factors with visas, and domestic enrolment was up over last year.

A member asked how enrolment numbers were calculated and noted differences between the report and Faculty enrolment reports. It was explained that students were not counted twice in the enrolment report, other reports will also include co-op students and were based on the 2021-22 numbers. Dr. Farrar noted that understanding enrolment and how students are counted is complex and offered to take the item away for further clarification.

A member suggested including additional information in the enrolment report specifically how many students are above the corridor. Dr. Tighe noted that government grants have been frozen for many years, expenses are increasing, and they cannot just rely on international students. McMaster has been in constant conversation with the government and that the Ontario Provost Executive Group is discussing funding issues.

Dr. Steve Hranilovic, Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, presented the graduate enrolment figures. There has been a net increase in the graduate studies population which is impressive given the turbulence with the arrivals of international students. Full-time graduate student enrolment has increased by 2.4% over last year. Earlier reports in September outlined student visa issues and how some Faculties were affected disproportionately.

b. Equity and Inclusion Office Annual Report

Dr. Sonia Anand, Acting Associate Vice-President, Equity and Inclusion, presented the report. Ms Lenore Lukasik-Foss, Director, Sexual Violence Prevention Response Office & Anti-Oppression Programs, and Patricia Suleiman, Director, Human Rights and Accessibility were in attendance to answer questions.

Dr. Anand explained that the Equity and Inclusion Office (EIO) has a three-prong mandate and provides a report annually to Senate and the Board. Dr. Anand provided an overview of staffing changes and improvements to the office, policies currently under review, and that an external review of the EIO has been completed. A tremendous amount of work has been completed by the EIO including 62 workshops and 324 consultations. There were 970 human rights dispute consultations which was an increase of 400 from the previous year due to individuals seeking accommodation from the vaccination policy.

In response to a question about off-campus complaints and the nexus to the University, Ms Lukasik-Foss explained that there are different rules for nexus cases depending on if it is a consultation or complaint. Consultations are a discussion of possible steps, and a complaint is filing documents. Nexus is fluid and depends on the unique circumstances of those involved and whether it has any connection to McMaster.

In response to a process question, Dr. Anand explained that a consultation is the first conversation. Officers outline the potential process and explain the implications of going through the next steps. A member expressed that it leaves the door open for settling. It was explained that it depends on what is brought forward and that it is not a one step process. It depends on the complaint, what the individual's wishes are, if it is university led, and if there are different dispute resolutions.

6 REPORT FROM GRADUATE COUNCIL

Dr. Steve Hranilovic, Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, presented the report.

1. Faculty of Engineering – M.A.Sc. in Chemical Engineering

At its meeting on December 6, 2022 Graduate Council approved the addition of a part-time option to the M.A.Sc. in Chemical Engineering.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the revision, for inclusion in the 2023-2024 Graduate Calendar, as recommended by Graduate Council and set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried**.
(1 abstention)

The remainder of items were for information.

2. Faculty of Engineering – Optional Scheduled Break in M.Eng. in Electrical & Computer Engineering
3. New Awards

7 REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

This report was for information.

8 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.