

McMaster University

SENATE MINUTES

VOL. CV

Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 3:30 p.m.
Council Chambers (111), Gilmour Hall

PRESENT: Dr. David Farrar, Mr. Ahmed Abdalla, Dr. Alfonso Iorio, Ms Amanda Bakke, Ms Brenda O'Connor, Dr. Chris Sinding, Ms Debbie Martin, Dr. Dina Brooks, Mr. Findley McSevney, Mr. Hasan Siddiqui, Dr. Heather Sheardown, Dr. Hendrick Poinar, Ms Heva Olfman, Dr. Jeff Weitz, Dr. Jeremiah Hurley, Mr. Jim McCaughey, Dr. Joëlle Papillon, Dr. Kalai Saravanamuttu, Dr. Karen Mossman, Dr. Khaled Hassanein, Dr. Kim Dej, Mx Kusum Bhatta, Dr. Lia Bronsard, Dr. Maikel Rheinstadter, Dr. Mark Boda, Dr. Matthew Miller, Dr. Melinda Gough, Dr. Nathan Andrews, Dr. Pamela Swett, Dr. Paul Andrews, Dr. Paul Faure, Dr. Paul Higgs, Ms Saher Fazilat, Ms Shaden Ahmed, Dr. Stephanie Springgay, Dr. Steve Hranilovic, Dr. Sue McCracken, Dr. Susan Tighe, Dr. Todd Hoare, Dr. Wael El-Dakhakhni, Ms Andrea Thyret-Kidd (University Secretary), Ms Christine Richard (Associate University Secretary), Ms Alysha Sless (Assistant University Secretary)

OBSERVERS: Ms Andrea Farquhar, Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh, Ms Caroline Seiler, Dr. Elisabeth Marquis, Ms Hanna Rao, Ms Karen Richmond, Dr. Katherine Cuff, Dr. Matheus Grasselli, Ms Melissa Pool, Mr. Rob Walters, Dr. Sandra Carroll, Mr. Sean Van Koughnett, Mr. Simranjeet Singh

REGRETS: Dr. Nikolai Penner, Dr. Mark Walton, Dr. Deborah Sloboda, Ms Sarrah Lal, Dr. Paul O'Byrne, Dr. Claudia Emerson, Dr. Lorraine Carter, Ms Bernadette Corpuz, Dr. Maureen MacDonald

A. OPEN SESSION

Dr. Farrar welcomed members to the meeting and added that it has been great to be back on campus and to see everyone today in Council Chambers for the first time in more than two years, and to see students return to campus for in-person learning.

Dr. Farrar explained that the past two years have been complex and disruptive for all members of our community and thanked everyone for the contributions they have made to support and maintain excellence in teaching and learning, and in our scholarly activities. Dr. Farrar acknowledged that we have learned a lot during the pandemic. At the beginning of the pandemic, many individuals had never used Zoom, Teams or virtual teaching platforms and now our staff, faculty and students have developed new ways of communicating with each other and are using innovations in the way we work, learn and teach, including digital learning strategies, that will stay with us well beyond the pandemic.

Since this is the first Senate meeting of the 2022-23 academic year, Dr. Farrar started by sharing some of the priorities he will be focusing on in the months ahead. Dr. Farrar advised that he will be continuing to work with faculty, staff and students across the university to make progress on the five key priorities outlined in McMaster's strategic plan. There are three years left in the plan and priorities include Inclusive Excellence; Teaching and Learning; Research and Scholarship; Engaging Communities; and Operational Excellence.

In the coming weeks, the university will be publishing its annual Institutional Priorities and Strategic Framework report, which gives details of many of the programs and initiatives developed over the past year. It is a very informative report in terms of the strategic plan and how we are moving towards it. Dr. Farrar noted that Canada's Global Nexus for Pandemics and Biological Threats remains an important priority for McMaster and continues to build momentum.

McMaster's inhaled vaccine, which has been proven to deliver broad protection against SARS-CoV-2 and variants of concern, is progressing through clinical trials. McMaster's infectious disease researchers are breaking new ground in what Dr. Gerry Wright believes is the next pandemic: antimicrobial resistance. We want to continue to build on our strength in that area. There are now nearly 100 researchers from all disciplines across the university engaged in Global Nexus, and in the coming year, they will work together under the leadership of Dr. Gerry Wright to continue to build Global Nexus.

Dr. Farrar added that McMaster's international portfolio is another key area of focus. Under the leadership of the new Vice-Provost, (International Affairs), Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh, the university is developing new strategic partnerships and initiatives to enhance research, identify new learning opportunities for our students, and to grow McMaster's international presence and profile.

A natural extension of McMaster's global research is our increasing activity around research translation. There have already been some great successes in this area and there are even greater opportunities for partnerships and broad participation in the commercialization of research. The Forge, a business incubator funded by McMaster, has supported 253 companies through its Business Incubator Program. Together, they have raised over \$40 million dollars in capital and are selling products in 50 countries. The Forge is based at McMaster's Innovation Park, which has become a hub for commercialization activities.

Dr. Farrar noted that the university is continuing to strengthen relationships with external partners including our donors whose gifts are helping support innovative new academic programming and key university priorities. Last spring, we announced a \$32 million dollar gift to establish the Marnix E. Heersink School of Innovation and Entrepreneurship. As well, the university hosted its inaugural Day of Giving, which raised nearly \$3 million in support of Black student excellence, Indigenous priorities and equity-deserving communities at McMaster. On Friday, the university will be announcing a significant gift that supports McMaster's vision and commitment to developing future generations of leaders who will tackle some of the world's most pressing challenges. This gift will support the development of a new set of programs with a residence component for students. The suite of offerings will have the word 'college' in its title. "College"

in the sense of Oxford or Cambridge's colleges where there is a residential component. Academic leaders will lead the creation of this innovative, new academic programming, which will be accessible to all students across McMaster. As the programs and the plans around the college are developed, they will move through the normal academic approval processes at the Faculty and Senate levels.

Dr. Farrar advised that Hamilton is in a municipal election. At least half of Hamilton's city council, including the mayor, are not seeking re-election, which means there will be a lot of new faces on city council and new opportunities to build relationships and advocate for McMaster at the local level.

Later this month, Dr. Farrar and other academic leaders from McMaster will be travelling to our nation's capital to host our annual Ottawa Day meetings and reception. This is an important opportunity to meet with MPs and senior government officials to strengthen our relationships with government partners and alumni, and to discuss McMaster's key priorities. We will be hosting a similar event for our provincial partners at Queen's Park later this fall.

Dr. Farrar explained that there have been problems with obtaining Canadian visas for some of our international students and invited Dr. Susan Tighe to speak to the situation. Dr. Tighe explained that approximately 170 international students who are supposed to be at McMaster have not yet received their visa and are waiting to arrive in Canada. A working group was formed a few weeks ago with members from Housing, Student Success and the Registrar's Office to assist with incoming students. Dr. Tighe added that she is in discussions with provosts across the country and everyone is having the same challenge. It is taking approximately 56 weeks to obtain a visa in some countries.

Dr. Farrar welcomed the following new members of Senate:

- *Dr. Steve Hranilovic, Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies*
- *Dr. Narat Charupat, Faculty of Business*
- *Dr. Mehdi Narimani, Faculty of Engineering*
- *Dr. Joëlle Papillon, Dr. Claudia Emerson, Faculty of Humanities*
- *Dr. Nathan Andrews, Dr. Hendrik Poinar, Faculty of Social Sciences*
- *Dr. Kalai Saravanamuttu, Dr. Paul Higgs, Dr. Paul Andrews, Faculty of Science*
- *Dr. Alfonso Iorio, Faculty of Health Sciences*
- *Ms Brenda O'Connor, Alumni Representative*
- *Mr. Ahmed Abdalla, Undergraduate Student Representative*
- *Mx Si Liu, Ms Heva Olfman, Mx Kusum Bhatta, Graduate Student Representative*
- *Dr. Brenda Vrkljan, Dr. Deborah Sloboda, Board Representative*
- *Dr. Mark Boda, Divinity Appointment*

Dr. Farrar informed Senators that the Secretariat is looking for two scrutineers for the Faculty By-Elections to Senate. Scrutineers will be needed for 30 minutes via Zoom on Friday, October 28 at 10:30 a.m. Interested individuals are asked to please email senate@mcmaster.ca

Members were informed that the return to in-person meetings has changed the voting procedures from our Zoom protocols and explained the new protocols for voting.

Senators were reminded that they should abstain from voting if they:

- have a conflict of interest,
- are too conflicted to cast a meaningful vote, or
- believe there is not enough information to vote.

To avoid this kind of situation, Senators are encouraged to read the meeting materials ahead of time and to ask the Secretariat about items in advance of the meeting.

1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA – OPEN SESSION

Dr. Farrar advised that Senators may find the material in item #3 to be helpful resources, including the Senate Primer, and Senate meeting dates and committee memberships.

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 September 14, 2022 and that items 2 through 4 be approved or received by Consent.

The motion was **carried**.

CONSENT

2 MINUTES of the Meeting of June 8, 2022 – Open Session

Motion:

that the minutes of the Open Session portion of the meeting held on June 8, 2022 be approved as circulated.

Approved by Consent.

3 COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Senate Primer and Confidentiality
- b. Senate Meeting Schedule for 2022-2023
- c. Senate Committee List for 2022-2023
- d. Senate Membership List for 2022-2023

Received by Consent.

4 REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- a. Actions Taken on Behalf of Senate: Graduate Expectations Arising from the McMaster Vaccination Policy
- b. Actions Taken on Behalf of Senate: Faculty of Health Sciences Associate Member Policy
- c. Actions Taken on Behalf of Senate: Terms of Reference
 - i. Name Change – Jack Hirsh Professorship in Thrombosis
 - ii. Associate Chair, Research, Faculty of Engineering

Received by Consent.

REGULAR**5 BUSINESS ARISING**

There was no business arising.

6 ENQUIRIES

There were no enquiries.

7 COMMUNICATIONS**a. Preliminary Enrolment Figures**

Mr. Sean Van Koughnett, Associate Vice-President (Students & Learning) and Dean of Students, and Dr. Steve Hranilovic, Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, provided a verbal update on the preliminary undergraduate and graduate enrolment figures. Senate will be provided with final numbers when these reports are available, usually at the December meeting.

Mr. Van Koughnett explained that this year they are at 99.7% of their target with 6,177 students being admitted. The numbers will change slightly as some students will leave. Mr. Van Koughnett noted that everyone has been working hard across the institution to support international students.

Dr. Hranilovic explained that overall graduate enrollment is stable with 5,682 new graduate students, which is a 1.5% increase over fall last year. Despite the challenges identified for international students, the situation is remarkable and 50 additional students are scheduled to arrive. Dr. Hranilovic thanked everyone and added that they are helping with deferrals as necessary.

8 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.