McMaster University

SENATE MINUTES

Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 3:30 p.m.
Via Zoom

PRESENT: Dr. David Farrar, Mr. Ahmed Abdalla, Dr. Alfonso Iorio, Ms Brenda O’Connor, Dr. Chris Sinding, Dr. Claudia Emerson, Dr. Deborah Sloboda, Dr. Dina Brooks, Mr. Hasan Siddiqui, Dr. Hendrick Poinar, Ms Heva Olfman, Dr. Jeremiah Hurley, Mr. Jim McCaughey, Dr. Joëlle Papillon, Dr. Khaled Hassanein, Dr. Kim Dej, Dr. Lorraine Carter, Dr. Mark Boda, Dr. Mark Walton, Dr. Maureen MacDonald, Dr. Mehdi Narimani, Dr. Narat Charupat, Dr. Paul Andrews, Dr. Paul Faure, Dr. Rick Monture, Ms Shaden Ahmed, Dr. Stephanie Springgay, Dr. Steve Hranilovic, Dr. Susan Tighe, Dr. Todd Hoare, Dr. Wael El-Dakhakhni, Ms Zahrah Talawala, Ms Andrea Thyret-Kidd (University Secretary), Ms Christine Richard (Associate University Secretary), Ms Alysha Sless (Assistant University Secretary), Ms Kelly Snow (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, Dr. Sean Corner, Mr. Sean Van Koughnett, Dr. Susan Denburg

REGRETS: Dr. Nikolai Penner, Dr. Michael McGillion, Dr. Brenda Vrkljan, Dr. Jeff Weitz, Dr. Pamela Swett, Dr. Paul O’Byrne, Ms Saher Fazilat, Dr. Lia Bronsard, Dr. Paul Higgs, Dr. Nathan Andrews, Dr. Karen Mossman, Ms Debbie Martin (Acting), Mx Si Liu, Dr. Heather Sheardown, Dr. Kalai Saravanamuttu, Dr. Maikel Rheinstadter, Dr. Matthew Miller, Dr. Melinda Gough, Mr. Findley McSevney, Mr. Keegan Johnson, Mr. Tyler Woo, Mx Kusum Bhatta

A. OPEN SESSION

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Farrar welcomed members to the meeting and acknowledged that members are meeting on the traditional territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee nations, within the lands protected by the Dish with One Spoon wampum agreement. Dr. Farrar explained that McMaster has not had a tradition of stating the land acknowledgement at recurring meetings and tends to read it when there are visitors to campus or when there are special meetings. Dr. Farrar explained that a new senator had queried the use of the land acknowledgement at Senate meetings, and upon investigation he found it is common to start Senate with a land acknowledgement at other
universities. Dr. Farrar advised that they are seeking advice from the Indigenous Education Council about how the land acknowledgement can be used in a meaningful way at meetings.

September 30th marked the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Leading up to this important commemoration, Dr. Farrar had the opportunity to sit down for a conversation with Dr. Savage Bear, the Director of the McMaster Indigenous Research Institute. Dr. Bear spoke about the importance of the day and about how members of the McMaster community can support truth and reconciliation by educating themselves about the history and culture of Indigenous people in Canada. During the conversation, Dr. Bear invited Dr. Farrar to take Indigenous Canada, a 12-module online course she co-created while she was at the University of Alberta. Dr. Farrar advised that he is committed to taking one module per month over the next year to deepen his understanding of Indigenous history in Canada and encouraged everyone to think more about Truth and Reconciliation as we move forward.

Dr. Farrar noted that it is the mid-point of a very busy fall term and that he has had the pleasure of meeting many of the new faculty members who have joined the university this year.

At the last meeting members were informed about a soon-to-be-announced philanthropic gift that would lead to the creation of a new college at the university. The gift was an extraordinary $50 million investment from McMaster alumnus and former chancellor, Lynton “Red” Wilson to establish the Wilson College of Leadership and Civic Engagement at McMaster University. The first of its kind in Canada, the college will support McMaster’s vision of developing students from all disciplines into leaders who are ready to help solve Canada, and the world’s, most pressing challenges. The academic programming is being led by the academic leaders of the Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences who are beginning the process of developing Wilson College. It involves innovative programming that will move through our normal programming processes of approval, through Faculties and through Senate. The college is meant to look very much like a program and will have undergraduate and graduate courses. There will be faculty assigned to it with research programs and it will also have a residential component for the students. Dr. Farrar explained that the concept of the college took its first step today at the University Planning Committee where it was approved, and it will come to Senate next month.

Dr. Farrar informed members that earlier this month, McMaster celebrated the achievements of two of our Nobel Laureates by renaming streets on campus in honour of economist Myron Scholes and engineering physicist Donna Strickland, both of whom are McMaster alumni. A portion of Stearn Drive, the roadway that runs across the south side of the David Braley Athletic Centre, will be named Scholes Way, and a stretch of road near the Arthur N. Bourns Building and John Hodgins Engineering Building will be named Strickland Way. In 1994, world-renowned McMaster nuclear physicist Bertram Brockhouse was also awarded the Nobel Prize and has a street named in his honour on campus. Brockhouse Way is located between the Psychology Building and the Institute for Applied Health Sciences building.

Dr. Farrar thanked those at McMaster and in the Hamilton community for their comprehensive approach to managing the unsanctioned street parties held near campus on October 1st. In the months and weeks leading up to October 1st, McMaster worked closely with the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton Police Service to strongly discourage people from attending street or other large
parties. McMaster supported the creation and implementation of Hamilton’s new Nuisance Party bylaw, and the extensive communications were clear about the potential consequences of attending these parties. Most of McMaster’s students took this resounding message seriously and stayed away from these unsanctioned parties. The MSU and student volunteers from the Maroons and Zero Waste McMaster were out in the neighbourhood Sunday morning helping to clean up debris from the street parties. Dr. Farrar noted that unfortunately, universities across the country are facing similar challenges. McMaster is committed to doing all it can to find solutions to these parties and will continue to work with city agencies to keep our community safe.

Senators were advised that the Government Relations team has been working hard to monitor and connect with all three levels of government. At the municipal level, they are awaiting the results of October 24th election, which will see a new mayor for Hamilton and at least six new councillors elected. Dr. Farrar is looking forward to attending a council meeting and providing the new council with an update on McMaster and areas where we can collaborate, including on McMaster Innovation Park, downtown development, and affordable housing. McMaster’s Government Relations team have organized a McMaster Day at Queen’s Park which takes place on November 1st. This will include meetings with Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and other senior provincial government officials. On September 16th, Dr. Farrar met with the Honourable Filomena Tassi, MP for this riding and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. This was followed by a full day of meetings in Ottawa on October 7th with senior government officials, including the Office of the Minister of Finance. Last Thursday Dr. Farrar met with the Honourable Francois Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry. The discussions have been focused on explaining the important research occurring at McMaster and the need for additional government funding to support our research initiatives. Key topics discussed included the McMaster Innovation Park, Canada’s Global Nexus for Pandemics and Biological Threats, our nuclear reactor and small modular reactors, and climate change.

Dr. Farrar invited Provost Dr. Susan Tighe to comment on the current situation with international students. Dr. Tighe explained that several international students have not arrived due to immigration issues and that a lot of hard work has been done by the Faculty leads to try and accommodate students. Dr. Tighe advised that this will have an impact on finances. The budget is in good shape and messaging has been sent to unit leads that new requests will not be accepted this year in the budget cycle. Dr. Tighe added that McMaster has prudent financial processes.

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 October 19, 2022 and that item 2 be approved by Consent.

The motion was carried.
CONSENT

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

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

Approved by Consent.

REGULAR

3 BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

4 ENQUIRIES

There were no enquiries.

5 COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

6 REPORT FROM GRADUATE COUNCIL

Dr. Steve Hranilovic, Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, explained that there were two items for information:

1. Research Plagiarism Checking
2. New Awards

7 REPORT FROM UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

Dr. Kim Dej, Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning, presented the report. Dr. Dej explained that on October 4, 2022 Undergraduate Council approved the following recommendations:

a. New Certificate of Attendance Program
   i. Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Fundamentals: Improving Your Clinical Practice with Core Skills

   It was duly moved and seconded,
that Senate approve the establishment of the Certificate of Attendance in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Fundamentals: Improving Your Clinical Practice with Core Skills, as set out in the attached.

The motion was carried.

b. Revisions to Existing Certificate and Diploma Programs

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the revisions to the certificate and diploma programs, as circulated.

The motion was carried.

The remainder of items were for information.

c. Undergraduate Council Committee Assignments

d. Terms of Award

8 REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Todd Hoare, Chair of the Committee on Appointments, presented the report.

On September 19, 2022, the Committee on Appointments approved the following recommendations and now recommends them to Senate for approval:

1. Establishment of Associate Vice-President Research (Commercialization and Entrepreneurship)

   It was duly moved and seconded,

   that Senate approve the establishment of the Associate Vice-President Research (Commercialization and Entrepreneurship), as circulated.

   The motion was carried.

2. SPS C4 Revisions

   It was duly moved and seconded,

   that Senate approve the proposed revisions to the Pregnancy and Parental Leaves Policy for Faculty and MUFA Librarians, effective July 1, 2022.

   The motion was carried.
9 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.