

## Minutes of the Meeting of the University Planning Committee

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 10:30 AM, Gilmour Hall, Council Room (Room 111)

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**PRESENT:** Susan Tighe (Chair), Carmela Alfaro-Laganse, Karen Bird, Ryan Clarke, Arlene Dosen, Ori Epstein, Lauren Fink, Khaled Hassanein, Steve Hranilovic, Jake Nease, Brenda Vrkljan, Andrea Thyret-Kidd, (University Secretary & Privacy Officer), Michelle Zheng, (Associate University Secretary), Sherri Keene, (Assistant University Secretary)

**OBSERVERS:** Kim Dej

**CONSULTANTS:** Ehab Kamarah

**INVITED:** Wendy Battram, *Senior Development Officer, University Advancement*  
Wanda McKenna, *Associate Vice-President & Chief Human Resources Office, Human Resources Services*

**REGRETS:** Dina Brooks, David Farrar, Saher Fazilat, Andy Knights, Mark Larché, Lili Litwin, Melissa Pool, Nicole Wager

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### **OPEN SESSION**

#### **1. Notice of Meeting - January 24, 2024**

The notice of meeting was circulated January 24, 2024.

#### **2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – January 17, 2024 (Open Session)**

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that the University Planning Committee approve the open session minutes of the meeting held on January 17, 2024, as circulated.**

The motion was **Carried**.

#### **3. Chair's Comments and Update**

Susan Tighe, *Provost and Vice-President (Academic)*, highlighted that the Provost's Office is closely tracking the reduction in the number of new international student study permits announced by the federal government. The Provost's Office had hired an external consultant to review the University's student recruitment strategy prior to this announcement and there will be opportunities for senior

leadership to travel to strategic locations to speak with potential students and their parents to help convert applicants.

S. Tighe also highlighted that there has been positive publicity around McMaster's budget being in surplus compared to other universities in Ontario. S. Tighe will be meeting with others at the Council of Ontario Universities to discuss lessons learned across the sector. It was noted that it is important to look at the data from other institutions and understand the context, size of the institution, and be strategic. Universities need to work together as a sector to figure out how we can all do better. S. Tighe noted McMaster is leading the pack and is currently in the "no action" category as determined by the government.

S. Tighe asked members to hold Tuesday, May 7, 2024 from 8:30 a.m.- noon in their calendars to participate in or attend an event hosted by the Provost's Office to showcase Strategic Alignment Fund (SAF) initiatives. The event will recognize and celebrate the success of initiatives supported by the SAF that are in their final year of funding and positioned under the realm of innovation. Members are encouraged to attend and ask questions.

#### **4. Business Arising**

There was no business arising.

#### **5. Report from Human Resources**

Wanda McKenna, *Associate Vice-President & Chief Human Resources Office*, provided members with an overview of the Report from Human Resources.

The Committee discussed some of the lessons Human Resources has learned through the COVID experience, future workplace strategies in the post-COVID environment, the complexity of Human Resources in a post-secondary environment, how the disaggregate data is made available to the campus community, and what portion of the work by Human Resources is contracted out. Members also commended the work of Human Resources in the areas of health and safety in co-op terms, international student exchange, and team sport, and ensuring diversity is showcased through communications and video series and allowing different groups at the table.

This item was for information.

W. McKenna withdrew from the meeting.

#### **6. Other Business**

There was no further business.