

Minutes of the Meeting of the University Planning Committee

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 10:30 AM, Gilmour Hall, Council Room (Room 111)

PRESENT: Susan Tighe (Chair), Carmela Alfaro-Laganse, Ryan Clarke, Ori Epstein, Lauren Fink, Saher Fazilat, Khaled Hassanein, Steve Hranilovic, Andy Knights, Mark Larché, Jake Nease, Nicole Wager, Andrea Thyret-Kidd, (University Secretary & Privacy Officer), Michelle Zheng, (Associate University Secretary), Sherri Keene, (Assistant University Secretary)

OBSERVERS: Dina Brooks, Kim Dej, Matheus Grasselli, Sean Van Koughnett

CONSULTANTS: Ehab Kamarah, Melissa Pool

REGRETS: Karen Bird, Arlene Dosen, David Farrar, Lili Litwin, Brenda Vrkljan

OPEN SESSION

1. Notice of Meeting - February 21, 2024

The notice of meeting was circulated February 21, 2024.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – February 7, 2024 (Open Session)

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the University Planning Committee approve the open session minutes of the meeting held on February 7, 2024, as circulated.

The motion was **Carried**; 1 abstention.

3. Chair's Comments and Update

Susan Tighe, *Provost and Vice-President (Academic)*, highlighted that concerted efforts are underway to actively recruit both international and domestic students and ensuring admission offers are being sent out quickly.

S. Tighe advised that the Graduate Task Force Report is anticipated to be available shortly and Steve Hranilovic, *Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies*, was invited to speak briefly about the report. S. Hranilovic advised that the report has been a large endeavor requiring a lot of input from various stakeholders. There have been several changes incorporated into the report and the report is being finalized with members now. The report will be available to the Provost for review soon.

S. Tighe invited Ehab Kamarah, *Associate Vice President and Chief Facilities Officer*, to provide an update on the 10 Bay Graduate Residence Building. E. Kamarah reported that the building has undergone several weeks of disinfecting of the water using chlorine. In order to be deemed safe, there needed to be two clean reports 24 hours apart and the results now show there is no longer coliform in the water. The focus will be on completing the remaining floors and it is anticipated that the building will be completed in April/early May 2024.

S. Tighe noted the Faculties are working on their budgets which will be presented to the Budget Committee in April with the non-academic ancillary budgets. Budget Committee members should anticipate a longer meeting on April 3, 2024 due to a shift in scheduling.

S. Tighe invited Sean Van Koughnett, *Associate Vice-President (Students and Learning) and Dean of Students*, to provide an update on protests that occurred on campus on March 5, 2024. S. Van Koughnett explained that there was a protest organized by a student human rights group that was managed well by Campus Safety. The group is requesting that McMaster divest interests with institutions in Israel. At the same time, a vigil took place organized by a Hillel group on campus. S. Van Koughnett noted freedom of expression on campus is important and the University is navigating the situation as best it can.

4. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

5. Report from the Vice-Provost (Teaching & Learning)

Kim Dej, *Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning*, provided members with an overview of the Report from the Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning).

The Committee discussed the different funding options for the Inspire courses versus the City Lab courses and how these are managed.

This item was for information.

6. Report from Undergraduate Council

K. Dej, *Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning*, explained that at its meeting held on February 27, 2024, the Undergraduate Council approved the closure of two Certificate of Professional Learning Programs in Intercultural Competency (ICL) and Foundations in Workplace Intercultural Competency & Communication. It was noted that the enrolment was not high enough to justify keeping the courses however, McMaster Continuing Education is discussing better forums to pull together expertise to provide these types of courses.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the University Planning Committee approve, for recommendation to the Senate, the closure of the Certificate of Professional Learning Program in Intercultural Competency (ICL), and the closure of the Certificate of Professional Learning Program in Foundations in Workplace Intercultural Competency & Communication, as circulated.

The motion was **Carried**.

7. Other Business

There was no further business.