

Minutes of the Meeting of the University Planning Committee

Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 10:30 AM, Gilmour Hall, Council Room (Room 111)

PRESENT: Susan Tighe (Chair), Karen Bird, Arlene Dosen, Ori Epstein, Saher Fazilat, Andy Knights, Mark Larché, Jake Nease, Brenda Vrkljan, Nicole Wager, Andrea Thyret-Kidd, (University Secretary & Privacy Officer), Michelle Zheng, (Associate University Secretary), Sherri Keene, (Assistant University Secretary)

OBSERVERS: Dina Brooks, Kim Dej

CONSULTANTS: Ehab Kamarah, Melissa Pool

INVITEES: Omer Ahmed, *Associate Vice President and Chief Financial Officer*
Iain Clarkson, *Budget Director, Budgeting Services*
Catherine Connelly, *Professor, DeGroote School of Business*
Elkafi Hassini, *Associate Dean Research, DeGroote School of Business*
Lou Mitton, *Controller, Financial Affairs*
Gianni Parise, *Deputy Vice-President, Research*
Nicole Wager, *Chair of Budget Committee*

REGRETS: Carmela Alfaro-Laganse, Ryan Clarke, David Farrar, Lauren Fink, Khaled Hassanein, Steve Hranilovic, Matheus Grasselli, Lili Litwin

OPEN SESSION

1. Notice of Meeting - April 24, 2024

The notice of meeting was circulated on April 24, 2024.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – March 27, 2024 (Open Session)

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the University Planning Committee approve the open session minutes of the meeting held on March 27, 2024, as circulated.

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

3. Chair's Comments and Update

Susan Tighe, *Provost and Vice-President (Academic)*, highlighted that the Consolidated Budget will be presented at the meeting and the University Planning Committee is one of the first committees to hear the budget. It was also noted that a statement from the University will be released regarding discussions with students from the Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights (SPHR) about the encampment on campus and the University is working on follow-ups that have been suggested. S. Tighe and Sean Van Koughnett, *Associate Vice-President (Students & Learning) and Dean of Students*, met with students at the encampment on Saturday, May 4, 2024, and the priority of the University is safety and security on campus. The University has received feedback that some people are feeling unsafe coming to campus. There will be many visitors on campus for 'May at Mac' which is scheduled to be held on Saturday, May 11, 2024.

A member urged the University not to meet the encampment demands as relationships with University partners in Israel are important and the University should be taking a holistic view. To sever relationships would be harmful to global security and to sever ties goes against the principles of academic freedom. Another member noted that there are discrepancies in how the University responds to geopolitical issues and whether it decides to take a position or not. It was suggested that further discussions at appropriate forums should take place to determine how these types of situations should be addressed.

4. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

5. Research Centres & Institutes Annual Report 2023

Gianni Parise, *Deputy Vice-President, Research Information*, presented the 2023 Research Centres & Institutes Report.

The Committee discussed the governance of the Research Centres and Institutes (RCIs) and Andy Knights, *Acting Vice-President of Research*, explained that each Faculty will have its own governing board to make decisions that best suit the RCI's own operations. The governing boards can bring any issues to the Office of the Vice-President of Research to address, if necessary. A member sought clarity around how qualitative data is collected in terms of satisfaction regarding how the RCI is functioning. It was explained that Faculties are asked to provide examples from their RCI's and a selection of those examples are chosen to be included in the Annual Report. A member commended the work being done regarding the undergraduate Summer Student Research Program and suggested a program could be offered that teaches students about intellectual property disclosures and patents.

This item was for information.

6. Proposal for Research Centres and Institutions

G. Parise, Elkafi Hassini, *Associate Dean Research, DeGroote School of Business*, and Catherine Connelly, *Professor, DeGroote School of Business*, presented the proposal to establish the McMaster Centre for Research on Employment and Work (MCREW).

The Committee discussed the space allocated for the new centre and whether there will be a laboratory available to everyone and who will be contributing to it. C. Connelly explained that the DeGroote School of Business expansion will have space for the research centre however, the core usefulness of the centre was not the physical space, but the people affiliated with it. The Committee discussed funding, the financial sustainability of the centre, and leveraging resources and expertise from across Faculties.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the University Planning Committee approve, for recommendation to the Senate and Board of Governors, the establishment of the McMaster Centre for Research on Employment and Work (MCREW), as circulated.

The motion was **Carried**.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.