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Minutes of the Meeting of the University Planning Committee
Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 10:30 AM, Council Chambers, Gilmour Hall

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PRESENT:	Carmela Alfaro-Laganse, Catherine Anderson, Karen Bird, Lindsay Bolan, Ruth Chen, Saher Fazilat, Lauren Fink, Steve Hranilovic, Jerry Hurley, Lena Kahn, Andy Knights, Mahmut Parlar, Heather Sheardown, Brenda Vrkljan, Andrea Thyret-Kidd (*University Secretary & Chief Governance and Privacy Officer*), Michelle Zheng (*Associate University Secretary*), Sherri Keene (*Assistant University Secretary*)
CONSULTANTS:	Ehab Kamarah, *Associate Vice President & Chief Facilities Officer* Melissa Pool, *Associate Vice-President Academic Planning and Finance*
OBSERVERS:	Matheus Grasselli, *Deputy Provost* David Ogborn, *McMaster University Faculty Association* Sean Van Koughnett, *Associate Vice-President, Students* Lili Litwin, *Vice-President University Advancement*
REGRETS:	David Farrar, Dina Brooks, Jake Nease
INVITEES:	Susan Wright, *Senior Director, Advancement Campaign, University Advancement* Karen McQuigge, *Director, Alumni Engagement, University Advancement* Alison Sills, *Professor and Chair, Physics and Astronomy* Khaled Hassanein, *Dean, DeGroote School of Business* Manaf Zargoush, *Associate Dean, Faculty Affairs & Accreditation, DeGroote School of Business* Manish Verma, *Associate Dean, Graduate Studies, DeGroote School of Business* Cynthia Bishop, *Manager, Career and Professional Development, DeGroote School of Business*

OPEN SESSION

1. Notice of Meeting - April 16, 2025

The notice of meeting was circulated on April 16, 2025.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was duly moved and seconded,

Motion:
that the University Planning Committee approve the agenda for the meeting of April 23, 2025.

The motion was **Carried**.

3. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – March 5, 2025 (Open Session)

Approval

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the University Planning Committee approve the open session minutes of the meeting held on March 5, 2025, as circulated.

The motion was **Carried**.

5. Chair's Comments and Update

Jerry Hurley, *Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic),* advised members about an announcement made at McMaster Innovation Park (MIP) regarding the Ontario government investing incremental funding over five years for students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Members were advised that this news comes as a response to over enrollment in STEM programs and will assist with funding for unfunded students in these fields. It was noted that while the additional funding will help, it does not close the gap or alleviate the pressures caused by limited funding due to a decrease in international student enrollment and there is still a need for cost restraints.

J. Hurley noted that there have been several labour settlements, including those with McMaster University Faculty Association (MUFA), Unifor, sessional faculty, and hospitality. These are set for approval and full ratification by the Board of Governors.

Additionally, there was a recent Nexus health event held to celebrate and acknowledged research activities, aiming to cultivate donors and support initiatives as part of an ongoing campaign. In response to a question about the naming of Nexus, Lili Litwin, *Vice-President, University Advancement,* advised that the name is currently on hold as University Advancement collaboratively works through the process with everyone involved.

6. Report from University Advancement
Information

L. Litwin*,* Susan Wright, *Senior Director, Advancement Campaign*, and Karen McQuigge, *Director, Alumni Engagement*, presented the Report from University Advancement.

A member sought clarification on private research grants, specifically regarding the reported $85 million figure and how philanthropic contributions are defined and counted. Further clarification was sought on the definition of philanthropic (if a tax receipt is issued) and how to avoid double counting efforts by individual faculty members (private research grants). There was also a discussion about the engagement of the incoming Vice President, Research (VPR) and the need for better collaboration with the VPR office.

Questions were asked about alumni engagement, including whether both undergraduate and graduate alumni are included and how departments work to keep alumni information updated. K. McQuigge noted the challenges of maintaining accurate alumni data.

The Committee discussed fundraising strategies and inquired about the 60% fundraising target before publicly announcing the campaign. The discussion touched on the importance of building momentum for successful campaigns and the generosity of donors during tough economic times.

A member raised questions about the evaluation and naming of spaces, with an emphasis on the need for policy revisions and collaboration with the new President and Provost to address these issues. S. Wright advised the University Advancement team is working on gathering necessary information and plans to bring this issue back for further discussion.

This item was for information.

7. Report from Graduate Council (11:05 a.m.)
Approval

Steve Hranilovic, *Vice-Provost & Dean of Graduate Studies*, presented the Report from Graduate Council.

a. Graduate Academic Certificates in Nuclear Safety and Technology

Members inquired about the program's uptake, whether there was consultation with other areas to cross-list the courses, and the registration fees for students.

It was duly moved and seconded,

Motion:
That the University Planning Committee approve, for recommendation to the Senate, the establishment of the following Graduate Academic Certificates in Nuclear Safety and Technology:

1. **Graduate Academic Certificate in Medical Health Physics & Internal Dosimetry;**
2. **Graduate Academic Certificate in Nuclear Detection, Instrumentation & Methods; and**
3. **Graduate Academic Certificate in Radioactivity and Radiation Interactions**

The motion was **Carried**.

b. Master of Management in AI Analytics & Master of Management in Applied AI and Data-Driven Decision Making

Khaled Hassanein, *Dean*, Manaf Zargoush, *Associate Dean, Faculty Affairs & Accreditation,* Manish Verma*, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies,* and Cynthia Bishop, *Manager, Career and Professional Development, DeGroote School of Business,* provided an overview of the item.

It was duly moved and seconded,

Motion:
That the University Planning Committee approve, for recommendation to the Senate, the establishment of the Master of Management in AI Analytics and Master of Management in Applied AI and Data-Driven Decision-Making programs.

The motion was **Carried**.

8. Report from Undergraduate Council

Approval

Catherine Anderson, *Acting Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning*, presented the Report from Undergraduate Council.

a. Closure of the Health Information Fundamentals Diploma

It was duly moved and seconded,

Motion:
That the University Planning Committee approve, for recommendation to the Senate, the closure of the Health Information Fundamentals Diploma.

The motion was **Carried**.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.