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Minutes of the Meeting of the University Planning Committee
Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at 10:30 AM, Gilmour Hall Room 111

PRESENT:	Maureen MacDonald, Karen Bird, Lindsay Bolan, Catherine Clase, Amber Dean, Saher Fazilat, Lauren Fink, Steve Hranilovic, Mayu Nishimura, Michael Noseworthy, Gianni Parise, Mahmut Parlar, Pamela Swett, Michelle Zheng (*Associate University Secretary*), Sherri Keene (*Assistant University Secretary*)
CONSULTANTS:	Ehab Kamarah, *Associate Vice-President & Chief Facilities Officer*
OBSERVERS:	Louis Schmidt*, McMaster University Faculty Association*
INVITED:	Mohamed Hussein, *Vice-Chair of Undergraduate Council* Kristen Burrows, *Assistant Dean, Physician Assistant Education Program* Laura Anderson, *Assistant Professor, Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact* Martin Horn, *Deputy Vice-President, Research* Christine Greshem, *Director, Donor Relations*
REGRETS:	Hfsa Awan, Nicholas Brathwaite, Kim Dej, Lena Kahn, Dina Brooks, Matheus Grasselli, Lili Litwin, Susan Tighe, Sean Van Koughnett

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OPEN SESSION

1. Notice of Meeting - April 8, 2026

The notice of meeting was circulated on April 8, 2026.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the University Planning Committee approve the agenda for the meeting of April 22, 2026.

The motion was **Carried.**

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – March 25, 2026 (Open Session)

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the University Planning Committee approve the open session minutes of the meeting held on March 25, 2026, as circulated.

The motion was **Carried**.

4. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

5. Chair's Comments and Update

Maureen MacDonald, *Provost and Vice-President (Academic)*, noted an ongoing request from the University Planning Committee for clarification regarding actions being taken to revise the Naming Policy. Proposed revisions on the Naming Policy will be brought to the May meeting. Christine Gresham, *Director, Donor Relations,* will provide feedback at today's meeting and members were invited to provide feedback.

6. Report from Undergraduate Council

Approval

Mohamed Hussein, *Vice Chair of Undergraduate Council*, presented the Report from Undergraduate Council.

a. New Diploma Program and Academic Microcredentials - Medical Laboratory Sciences

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the University Planning Committee approve the new Diploma program in Medical Laboratory Sciences, as circulated.

The motion was **Carried**.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the University Planning Committee approve the undergraduate academic microcredential in Patient Care and Self-Care, as circulated.

The motion was **Carried.**

A member requested clarification on how teaching credits are calculated, specifically with respect to six-unit offerings counting as two teaching credits. M. MacDonald explained that the approach aligns with the broader academic ecosystem and reflects the intention to support microcredential stacking and laddering. The framework is designed to allow offerings to function as standalone components, contribute toward degree programs, while also providing a significant degree of flexibility.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the University Planning Committee approve the undergraduate academic microcredential in Laboratory Workflow and Laboratory Management, as circulated.

The motion was **Carried.**

b. New Non-Academic Microcredential in Public Banks 101 for Trade Unions and Activists

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the University Planning Committee approve the non-academic microcredential in Public Banks 101 for Trade Unions and Activists, as circulated.

The motion was **Carried**.

A member noted curiosity regarding the reliance on the subject-matter expertise of Dr. Waterford and asked whether they are the sole instructor responsible for the course and whether teaching credit will be given since the course is non-academic. M. Hussein advised that, at present, responsibility lies with constructing the course content, with the expectation that another individual will assume delivery in the future. Consideration of whether the course will count toward teaching credit has not yet occurred. M. MacDonald noted that this matter will be an important consideration as discussions continue across the various spaces.

c. Certificate of Completion in Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS)

A member noted that the proposal identified Grade 12 as the minimum education requirement and expressed concern that this seemed insufficient, with the expectation that a bachelor’s degree would be

required. The Committee discussed that no comparable program currently exists and that the proposed certificate would provide needed training and academic rigor. It was noted that similar programs offered in the United States are significantly more expensive and that this initiative would offer an accessible alternative at McMaster. Members observed that comparable certificates are typically 3-5 days in duration and delivered under physician supervision within routine psychiatry practices. Clarification was provided that the proposal acknowledges applicable regulatory requirements and Health Canada guidelines. Steve Hranilovic, *Vice-Provost & Dean of Graduate Studies*, confirmed that these issues had been addressed through the various approval stages and that McMaster is operating within an appropriate academic and regulatory space. It was further noted that the program leads to a certificate of completion, constitutes a credential of at least 30 instructional hours, and includes an evaluative component. Another member noted that, within psychology research, undergraduate students routinely learn to use similar tools under the supervision of a Principal Investigator (PI), and that the proposed program is adjacent to existing practices and represents a positive step forward. The policy clearly distinguishes between certificates of completion and microcredentials, no concerns were raised regarding the language of the proposal.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the University Planning Committee approve the Certificate of Completion in Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS), as recommended by the Faculty of Science and as circulated.

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

7. Report from Graduate Council

Approval

S. Hranilovic presented the Report from Graduate Council.

a. Faculty of Health Sciences - Master of Science in Physician Assistant Program

Kristen Burrows, *Assistant Dean, Physician Assistant Education Program,* provided an overview of the item.

There were no questions from the Committee.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that University Planning Committee approve, for recommendation to Senate, the establishment of the new Physician Assistant (M.ScPA.) graduate program, as circulated.

The motion was **Carried.**

b. Graduate Academic Certificates - Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact

Laura Anderson, *Assistant Professor, Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact,* provided an overview the certificates.

There were no questions from the Committee.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the University Planning committee approve, for recommendation to the Senate, the Graduate Academic Certificate in Community and Public Health Policy, Planning & Evaluation, for inclusion in the 2026-2027 Graduate Calendar, as circulated.

The motion was **Carried.**

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the University Planning Committee approve, for recommendation to the Senate, the Graduate Academic Certificate in Community and Public Health Research and Knowledge Translation, and Evaluation, for inclusion in the 2026-2027 Graduate Calendar, as circulated.

The motion was **Carried.**

8. Name Change - Global Nexus School for Pandemic Prevention and Response
Approval

Members were advised that over the past 3 years the focus of this initiative has broadened and the name change better reflects the ongoing work.

A member noted that the name has been in use without full approval and raised concerns regarding branding. M. MacDonald advised that no separate entity is being established and indicated the issue would be reviewed further, with the member noting this underscored the need for earlier consultation with the

University Planning Committee. Clarification was provided that the scope continues to include pandemic response, antibiotics, and drug development, though not exclusively pandemic-focused. Members also discussed the relationship between NexusHealth and the broader Nexus campaign, with clarification that NexusHealth sits within the Nexus umbrella alongside other areas. Potential confusion between NexusHealth and Nexus was noted, and the importance of careful naming and clear communication was emphasized.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the University Planning Committee approve, for recommendation to the Senate, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, a change in name of the Global Nexus School for Pandemic Prevention and Response to NexusHealth.

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

9. Closure of Research Centres and Institutes (RCI)
Approval

Pamela Swett, *Dean, Faculty of Humanities*, provided an overview of the item.

M. MacDonald emphasized the importance of following established processes not only to open centres, but also to formally close them.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the University Planning Committee approve, for recommendation to the Senate and Board of Governors, the closure of the Centre for Networked Media and Performance, Faculty of Humanities (CNMAP), as circulated.

The motion was **Carried**.

10. Updates to the Guidelines for the Governance and Review of Core Research Platforms Policy
Approval

Gianni Parise, *Vice-President, Research*, and Martin Horn, *Deputy Vice-President, Research,* provided an overview of the revisions.

A member asked how demand would be assessed, and G. Parise explained that demand could be defined through patterns of use, including individual and collective utilization. The member suggested the use of research resource

identifiers (RRIDs) to help quantify demand. M. Horn noted this was a strong suggestion and indicated it may not need to be embedded directly into the policy.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the University Planning Committee approve, for recommendation to the Senate and Board of Governors, the revisions to the Guidelines for the Governance and Review of Core Research Platforms policy, as circulated, effective June 11, 2026.

The motion was **Carried.**

11. Update on Naming Policy & Procedures

Information

Christine Gresham, *Director, Donor Relations*, provided an overview of the item. It was highlighted that this work was identified as a priority upon her joining McMaster and involved extensive review of external policies, internal consultation, and a focus on maintaining flexibility. The proposed revisions are scheduled for review by PVP on May 5, UPC on May 27, and the Board of Governors on June 11. The Committee discussed the evolving practices in naming, including limits on perpetuity, strengthened equity, diversity, and inclusion language, and the growing use of corporate naming, along with associated reputational considerations. Members discussed valuation practices, and C. Gresham noted that minimum values are intended as guidelines and that the scope of naming opportunities has broadened significantly since the policy was first established. Oversight and due diligence processes were reviewed, including donor research, internal consultation, ethical clauses within gift agreements, and provisions allowing for the withdrawal of naming rights where there is misalignment with institutional values or reputational risk. Members also raised equity related considerations, including naming spaces for individuals who are not donors, the impact of naming on marginalized communities, and considerations related to naming involving minors. Clarification was sought regarding the respective roles of governance bodies and the information required to support informed decision making, with agreement to include this topic as an agenda item for a future meeting. C. Gresham encouraged continued feedback from the Committee.

This item was for information.

12. Other Business

There was no other business.