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Minutes of the Meeting of the University Planning Committee
Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 10:30 AM, Gilmour Hall Room 111

PRESENT:	Maureen MacDonald, Hfsa Awan, Karen Bird, Lindsay Bolan, Catherine Clase, Lauren Fink, Steve Hranilovic, Mayu Nishimura, Michael Noseworthy, Gianni Parise, Mahmut Parlar, Pamela Swett, 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*
OBSERVERS:	Dina Brooks, *Dean & Vice-President (Health Sciences)* Kim Dej, *Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning* Matheus Grasselli, *Deputy Provost* Louis Schmidt, *McMaster University Faculty Association* Sean Van Koughnett, *Associate Vice-President, Students*
INVITED:	Omer Ahmed, *Associate Vice-President & Chief Financial Officer* Sarah Dickson-Anderson, *Associate Dean (Undergraduate), Faculty of Engineering* Norm Hawton, *Director, Design & Construction, Facility Services* George Vadakken, *Assistant Director/Project Planning, Facility Services*
REGRETS:	Nicholas Brathwaite, Ruth Chen, Amber Dean, Saher Fazilat, Lena Kahn, Lili Litwin, Melissa Pool, Susan Tighe

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OPEN SESSION

1. Notice of Meeting - January 21, 2026

The notice of meeting was circulated on January 21, 2026.

2. Approval of Agenda

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the University Planning Committee approve the agenda for the meeting of February 4, 2026.

The motion was **Carried**.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – January 7, 2026 (Open Session)

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the University Planning Committee approve the open session minutes of the meeting held on January 7, 2026, as circulated (or amended).

The motion was **Carried**.

4. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

5. Chair's Comments and Update

There were no comments from the Chair other than an emphasis on the ongoing efforts within the Provost's Office to ensure that financial information continues to be shared through various forums to support transparency.

6. Report from Financial Affairs

Omer Ahmed, *Associate Vice-President & Chief Financial Officer,* presented the Report from Financial Affairs.

Maureen MacDonald, *Provost and Vice-President (Academic)*, commented that the presentation clearly illustrated the University Planning Committee's position within the broader governance structure, highlighting the interconnected relationships among the various committees and the ways in which Financial Affairs supports them collectively.

There were no questions from the Committee.

This item was for information.

7. Report from Undergraduate Council

The Committee heard that the fees for the New Program Proposal in Nuclear Engineering were approved by the University Student Fees Committee on Tuesday, February 3, 2026.

Kim Dej, *Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning*, presented the Report from Undergraduate Council, and Sarah Dickson-Anderson, *Associate Dean (Undergraduate), Faculty of Engineering*, joined the meeting to provide further details on the new Program in Nuclear Engineering.

Members asked about lessons emerging across higher education, including the impact of previously paused or discontinued programs that are now needed to meet renewed demand in the nuclear field. They inquired about the interdisciplinary nature of the proposed program, the relationship between the new curriculum and existing programs such as engineering physics, and the extent to which overlap had been assessed. Members also sought clarification regarding anticipated workforce needs, distinctions between general engineering preparation and nuclear specific training, projected enrollment targets, and the limited number of comparable programs in the province. Additional questions addressed the availability of co-op opportunities and whether unique nuclear sector placements had been identified. The Committee asked whether consideration had been given regarding international student recruitment, including sensitivities related to sanctions, research security requirements, and the role of institutional oversight in ensuring responsible and compliant admissions practices.

a. Faculty of Engineering - New Program Proposal - Nuclear Engineering

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the University Planning Committee approve, for recommendation to Senate, the establishment of the new *Nuclear Engineering (B.Eng.) program and its corresponding Co-op program*.

The motion was **Carried**.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the University Planning Committee approve, for recommendation to Senate, the establishment of the new *Nuclear Engineering and Society (B.Eng.Society) program and its corresponding Co-op program*.

The motion was **Carried**.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the University Planning Committee approve, for recommendation to Senate, the establishment of the new *Nuclear Engineering and Management (B.Eng.Mgt.) program and its corresponding Co-op program.*

The motion was **Carried**.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.