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Meeting Minutes of the Undergraduate Council
Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 2:30 p.m.
Gilmour Hall, Council Room (Room 111)

Attendance: Kim Dej (*Chair)*, Zubair Azizi, Sean Corner, Rosa da Silva, Gonzalo Dejo Mau, Mohammed Hussein, Ayesha Khan, Vivian Lewis, Karen McGarry, Caitlin Mullarkey, Beth Marquis, Eliza Ritchie, Aaron Schat, Mohammad Salhia, Rob Whyte, Michelle Zheng (*Associate University Secretary*), Kelly Snow (*Assistant University Secretary*)

Consultants: Cait Brooks, Jordan Charron, Lynn Giordano, Jennifer Hamilton, Carla Hodal, Cathy Mackenzie, Liz Maguire, Sarah Robinson, Greg Rombough, Maria White

Invited: Elliott Jeyaseelan, *Facility Technology Administrator, Facility Services*
Babu James, *Strategic Project Manager, Strategic Implementations, Office of the AVP and CTO*
Avi Khurana, *Business Analyst, UTS - IT Strategic Implementations*
Randall Walinga, *Director - Information Technology and Digital Learning Services at McMaster University - DeGroote School of Business*

Regrets: Blake Clayton, Sarah Dickson-Anderson, Sean Van Koughnett

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1. Call to Order

Kim Dej, *Chair of the Undergraduate Council,* called the meeting to order.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting - January 27, 2026

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Undergraduate Council approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 27, 2026, as circulated.

The motion was ***Carried.***

3. Business Arising

There was no business arising.

4. Chair's Remarks

K. Dej noted that the Ontario government recently announced a $6.4 billion investment in the University sector, including an initial tuition increase with variable adjustments afterward and changes to Weighted Grant Units (WGU). At the same time, OSAP changes were introduced without consultation with universities and include reduced grants, which raises concerns about student affordability. While universities have limited control over tuition, housing, and cost of living, McMaster is exploring ways to reduce costs in areas such as textbooks and library resources.

5. Report from the Awards Committee

Rosa da Silva, *Chair of the Awards Committee,* presented the report.

1. Revisions to the University Aid and Awards Policy

At its meeting on February 3, 2026, the Undergraduate Council Awards Committee reviewed and approved revisions to the University Aid and Awards Policy. Jordan Charron, *Senior Associate Registrar, Student Services and Financial Support*, provided an overview.

From the list of equity-deserving groups, there was a suggestion to amend the terminology from “Latin American background” to “Latinx background”.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Undergraduate Council approve, for recommendation to the Senate, the proposed revisions to the University Aid and Awards Policy, effective March 11, 2026, as amended.

The motion was ***Carried.***

2. Terms of Award

At the same meeting, the Undergraduate Council Awards Committee reviewed and approved terms of awards for recommendation to the Undergraduate Council.

a. Proposed New Awards

b. Proposed New Bursaries
c. Changes to Award Terms
d. Changes to Bursary Terms
e. Bursaries to be Removed from the Undergraduate Calendar
f. Academic Grants to be Removed from the Undergraduate Calendar
g. Award Value Changes (information)

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Undergraduate Council approve the recommendations contained in the Report from the Office of the Registrar & Financial Support, as circulated.

The motion was ***Carried.***

6. Report from the Committee on Certificates, Diplomas and Microcredentials

Aaron Schat, *Chair of the Joint Committee on Certificates, Diplomas and Microcredentials,* presented the report.

1. New Academic Microcredential in Equitable Activity, Mobility, and Community Health

At its meeting on February 3, 2026, the Joint Committee on Certificates, Diplomas and Microcredentials reviewed and approved a new academic Microcredential in Equitable Activity, Mobility, and Community Health, as recommended by the Faculty of Science. Rosa Da Silva**,** *Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies***,** provided an overview of the microcredential.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Undergraduate Council approve, for recommendation to the Senate, the academic *Microcredential in Equitable Activity, Mobility, and Community Health,* as recommended by the Faculty of Science for inclusion in the 2026-2027 Undergraduate Calendar, and as circulated.

The motion was ***Carried.***

2. Revisions to Certificate and Diploma Programs

At the same meeting, the Joint Committee on Certificates, Diplomas and Microcredentials reviewed and approved revisions to the McMaster English Language Development (MELD) Diploma and to the Concurrent Certificate in Business Technology Management**.**

a. Faculty of Humanities

Sean Corner**,** *Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies***,** provided an overview of the revisions.

There was a brief discussion regarding what may occur if a student fails a course. S. Corner noted that the Faculty would attempt to reach out if there was an attendance issue and otherwise would work with students where possible.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Undergraduate Council approve the revisions to the *McMaster English Language Development (MELD) Diploma*, to be piloted over a period of four years, as recommended by the Faculty of Humanities for inclusion in the *2026–2027 Undergraduate Calendar*, and as circulated.

The motion was ***Carried.***

b. Faculty of Business

A. Schat provided a brief overview of the revisions.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Undergraduate Council approve the revisions to the *Concurrent Certificate in Business Technology Management*, as recommended by the Faculty of Business for inclusion in the *2026-2027 Undergraduate Calendar,* and as circulated.

The motion was ***Carried.***

7. **Report from the Curriculum & Admissions Committee**

Beth Marquis, *Chair of the Curriculum & Admissions Committee*, presented the Committee's report.

1. Addenda to Curriculum Revisions for the 2026-2027 Undergraduate Calendar

At its meeting on February 3, 2026, the Curriculum and Admissions Committee approved, for recommendation to Undergraduate Council, addenda to curriculum revisions contained in the following reports for

inclusion in the *2026-2027 Undergraduate Calendar.* All minor curriculum addenda will be encompassed by the omnibus motion.

a. Faculty of Science

R. da Silva provided a brief overview of the report.

b. Faculty of Health Sciences

Rob Whyte, *Vice-Dean, Education*, provided a brief overview of the report.

c. Faculty of Humanities

S. Corner provided a brief overview of the report.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Undergraduate Council approve, for recommendation to the Senate, the establishment of the *Combined Honours Music & Another Subject (Biology) (B.A.)* as a major modification to the existing Combined Honours Music & Another Subject (B.A.) program, as recommended by the Faculty of Humanities for inclusion in the *2026–2027 Undergraduate Calendar*, and as amended.

The motion was ***Carried.***

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Undergraduate Council approve, for recommendation to the Senate, the establishment of the *Combined Honours Music & Another Subject (Mathematics) (B.A.)* as a major modification to the existing Combined Honours Music & Another Subject (B.A.) program, as recommended by the Faculty of Humanities for inclusion in the *2026–2027 Undergraduate Calendar*, and as circulated.

The motion was ***Carried.***

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Undergraduate Council approve, for recommendation to the Senate, the establishment of the *Combined Honours Music & Another Subject (Physics) (B.A.)* as a major modification to the

existing Combined Honours Music & Another Subject (B.A.) program, as recommended by the Faculty of Humanities for inclusion in the *2026–2027 Undergraduate Calendar*, and as circulated.

The motion was ***Carried.***

d. Faculty of Business

A. Schat provided a brief overview of the report.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Undergraduate Council approve the curriculum addenda proposed by the Faculties of Science, Health Sciences, Humanities and Business for inclusion in the 2026-2027 Undergraduate Calendar, as amended.

There was a minor amendment related to updating the fees listing for the Faculty of Health Sciences, as well as adding the effective date for the PhD referral program on page 7.

The motion was ***Carried.***

8. Presentation - Smart Campus Project

Babu James, *Strategic Project Manager, Strategic Implementations, Office of the AVP and CTO,* Avi Khurana, *Business Analyst, UTS - IT Strategic Implementations*, Randall Walinga, *Director - Information Technology and Digital Learning Services at McMaster University - DeGroote School of Business*, and Elliot Jeyaseelan**,** *Facility Technology Administrator, Facility Services,* joined the meeting. Several attendees delivered the presentation on the Smart Campus Project.

9. Other Business

K. Dej called for any other business.

10. Adjournment

As there was no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:46 PM.