
McMaster University

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

March 5, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Council Room, Gilmour Hall (Room 111)

PRESENT: Mr. B. Merkel (Chair), Ms L. Allan, Ms J. Allen, Ms L. Brown, Mr. J. Coles, Dr. J. Daniel, Mr. S. Donnelly, Mr. P. Douglas, Dr. D. Farrar, Dr. C. Filipe, Mr. A. Jhaveri, Dr. R. Kleiman, Ms S. McLarty, Mr. R. Narro Perez, Dr. A. Niec, Mr. K. Nye, Dr. L. Parker, Ms J. Rowe, Dr. S. Searls Giroux, Dr. E. Szathmáry, Dr. R. Walker, Ms A. Thyret-Kidd (University Secretary), Ms M. Zheng (Associate University Secretary), Mr. T. Paul (Governance Coordinator)

OBSERVERS: Ms E. Davies, Ms A. Farquhar, Ms D. Henne, Dr. B. Levy, Dr. K. Mossman, Dr. A. Sills, Ms M. Williams

INVITED: Ms D. Martin, Assistant Vice-President and Chief Facilities Officer
Ms W. McKenna, Assistant Vice-President and Chief Human Resources Officer
Dr. A. al Shaibah, Associate Vice-President (Equity and Inclusion)
Mr. S. Van Koughnett, Associate Vice-President (Students and Learning)

REGRETS RECEIVED: Ms. S. Cruickshanks, Mr. D. Feather, Mr. M. Ferencich, Dr. A. Holloway, Mr. D. Horwood, Mr. D. Huctwith, Ms R. Jamieson, Ms J. Pike, Ms F. Samji, Mr. N Skelding, Dr. D. Sloboda, Ms C. Stefankiewicz, Mr. T. Valeri, Ms E. Way, Mr. D. Williamson,

A. OPEN SESSION

1. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. Merkel welcomed members to the March Board meeting.

Mr. Merkel noted that the details of the Board training session with the DeGroot School of Business Directors College would be circulated shortly.

2. NOTICE OF MEETING – FEBRUARY 20, 2020

The Notice of Meeting was circulated on **February 20, 2020**.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – OPEN SESSION

Mr. Merkel noted that no requests had been received to move any items from the Consent to the Regular agenda of the Open Session.

IT WAS DULY MOVED AND SECONDED,

that the Board of Governors approve the Open Session agenda for the meeting of March 5, 2020, and that items 4-6 be approved or received for information by Consent.

The Motion was *Carried*.

CONSENT

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – December 12, 2019 (OPEN SESSION)

Motion:

that the Board of Governors approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting held on December 12, 2019 as circulated

Approved by Consent

5. BUSINESS ARISING

6. REPORTS RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION

a. McMaster Museum of Art – Annual Report

The material was for information.

b. Report from Health, Safety and Risk Management

The material was for information.

REGULAR

7. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising from the minutes of the meeting held on December 12, 2019.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications for the meeting of March 5, 2020.

9. PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

Dr. Farrar provided the Board with the overview of the University's activities related to pandemic planning and the coronavirus. It was explained that the Crisis Management

Group is meeting regularly and has been in close contact with Public Health. Regular communications are being circulated to the McMaster community in a variety of different formats, including advice around travel, hand washing, potential symptoms and how members of the community can protect themselves. Members heard that the University's researchers in the Institute for Infectious Disease Research are also engaged in providing guidance and expert commentary.

Several members inquired about the University's current travel guidelines for students and faculty. It was explained that countries identified by the federal government as a level 3 warning triggers McMaster's Risk Management Policy regarding student travel. The Policy restricts undergraduate student exchanges, placements and official trips to level 3 countries. Such trips are not permitted until the risk level is lowered by the federal government. Graduate students who wish to travel to such countries require the approval of the Provost or Vice-Provost (International Affairs). Members heard that there are no restrictions on faculty member travel, but it can be reviewed on an individual basis.

Members asked questions and discussed the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the University's admissions processes. In response to a question, members heard that the impacts to application and enrolment figures will not be fully realized until August or September.

Provincially, it was explained that the University's SMA3 submission was provided to the government at the end of February. It is expected that the document will be completed and signed off on at the end of the month. Members were also informed that the University submitted a pre-budget submission. While submissions were limited to 500 words, the submission emphasized the funding pressures facing universities and focused on the positive role that universities play in the life of the province.

Dr. Farrar updated the Board on the provincial government's 2018 survey in which students were asked about experiences of harassment, stalking and non-consensual sexual experiences on and off campus. Members heard that summary information was provided in 2019 and that the University recently received the detailed data and responses. The data is in the process of being reviewed and is helpful in reinforcing the areas of education, support and response that the University can improve upon for the student body. The University is continuing to add resources to this area and enhance the sexual violence and response training available for members of the campus community, in addition to providing bystander intervention training for faculty, staff and students.

The Board heard that the searches for the Vice-President (Research) and Provost and Vice-President (Academic) continue to progress. Advertisements for both positions are expected to be circulated in the next couple of weeks.

10. REPORT FROM SENATE

Dr. Farrar provided an overview of the report from Senate.

a. SPS A9 – Allocation of Teaching Stream Positions Across Facilities

IT WAS DULY MOVED AND SECONDED,

that the Board of Governors approve the revisions to the SPS A9 Policy, as circulated.

The Motion was *Carried*.

b. Proposal for Centre for Clinical Neuroscience (CNN)

IT WAS DULY MOVED AND SECONDED,

that the Board of Governors approve the establishment of the new joint centre, the McMaster/St. Joseph’s Centre for Clinical Neuroscience (CCN), as an official research centre at McMaster.

The Motion was *Carried*.

c. Establishment of “Guidelines for the Governance and Review of Core Research Platforms”

IT WAS DULY MOVED AND SECONDED,

that the Board of Governors approve the establishment of the policy on Guidelines for the Governance and Review of Core Research Platforms.

The Motion was *Carried*.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Planning and Resources Committee

Mr. Donnelly provided an overview of the report from the Planning and Resources Committee.

i. Hourly Pension Plan Actuarial Valuations

Members heard that on on February 13, 2020, the Planning and Resources Committee approved, on the recommendation of the Pension Trust Committee, the actuarial funding valuation for the Contributory Pension Plan for Hourly-Rated Employees of McMaster University Including Divinity College (“Hourly Plan”).

IT WAS DULY MOVED AND SECONDED,

that the Board of Governors approve the results of the Actuarial Valuation for Funding Purposes as at July 1, 2019 for the Contributory Pension Plan for Hourly-Rated Employees of McMaster University Including McMaster Divinity College be filed with the Financial Services Regulatory Authority and the Canada Revenue Agency.

The Motion was *Carried*.

ii. Debt Management Policy

Members heard that at the same meeting, the Planning and Resources Committee approved proposed revisions to the Debt Management Policy.

A suggestion was made that the Board receive a presentation on the metrics referenced within the document. Ms Henne noted that the complete Debt Strategy will be presented to the Planning and Resources Committee at a future Committee meeting. A summarized version of the presentation can be made available to the full Board at an appropriate time.

IT WAS DULY MOVED AND SECONDED,

that the Board of Governors approve the revised Debt Management Policy as shown in the attachment.

The Motion was *Carried*.

12. PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Dr. David Farrar, President and Vice-Chancellor, and Ms Andrea Thyret-Kidd, University Secretary and Privacy Officer, delivered a presentation on the Powers and Responsibilities of Senate.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business for the Open Session portion of the meeting.