

McMaster University

SENATE MINUTES

VOL. CX

Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.
Council Chambers (111), Gilmour Hall

PRESENT: Dr. David Farrar, Mr. Ahmed Abdalla, Dr. Alfonso Iorio, Ms Brenda O'Connor, Dr. Brenda Vrkljan, Dr. Claudia Emerson, Dr. Deborah Sloboda, Dr. Dina Brooks, Dr. Heather Sheardown, Dr. Hendrik Poinar, Dr. James Benn, Dr. Jeff Weitz, Dr. Jeremiah Hurley, Mr. Jim McCaughey, Dr. Joëlle Papillon, Dr. Kalai Saravanamuttu, Dr. Karen Mossman, Dr. Kim Dej, Dr. Lorraine Carter, Dr. Maikel Rheinstadter, Dr. Mark Boda, Mr. Mark Fahmy, Dr. Mark Walton, Dr. Maureen MacDonald, Dr. Narat Charupat, Dr. Pamela Swett, Dr. Pau Pujolas, Dr. Paul Andrews, Dr. Paul Faure, Dr. Paul Higgs, Dr. Paul O'Byrne, Dr. Renae Watchman, Ms Saher Fazilat, Dr. Stephanie Springgay, Dr. Steve Hranilovic, Dr. Todd Hoare, Dr. Wael El-Dakhakhni, Andrea Thyret-Kidd (University Secretary), Ms Michelle Zheng (Associate University Secretary), Ms Alysha Sless (Assistant University Secretary)

OBSERVERS: Ms Andrea Farquhar, Dr. Andy Knights, Ms Carolyn Brendon, Dr. Elisabeth Marquis, Ms Karen Richmond, Dr. Katherine Cuff, Dr. Matheus Grasselli, Ms Melissa Pool, Mr. Rob Walters, Dr. Sandra Carroll, Mr. Sean Van Koughnett, Dr. Steven Bray, Dr. Susan Denburg, Ms Vivian Lewis

REGRETS: Ms Debbie Martin, Dr. Chris Sinding, Ms Shaden Ahmed, Dr. Khaled Hassanein, Dr. Manaf Zargoush, Dr. Melinda Gough, Dr. Nathan Andrews, Mx Kusum Bhatta, Dr. Susan Tighe

A. OPEN SESSION

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Farrar welcomed members to the meeting and acknowledged that McMaster is located on the traditional territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee nations and within the lands protected by the Dish with One Spoon wampum agreement.

Dr. Farrar explained that two weeks ago Parks Canada announced \$3.5 million in funding to McMaster and other members of the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System. The funding supports several McMaster-led projects aimed at restoring and protecting the wetlands, plants, and wildlife in the 2,200-hectare corridor that makes up the EcoPark System –including an initiative that invites Indigenous communities and Knowledge Holders to share knowledge about the land and participate in its management. Dr. Farrar added that he was pleased to see this recognition of the vital role Indigenous communities play in caring for and stewarding the natural lands we share. We have much to learn from Indigenous peoples. It's critical that we honour

Indigenous knowledge, and work in partnership with Indigenous communities, not only as we seek to protect the lands surrounding our university for future generations, but as we continue our collective journey toward Truth and Reconciliation.

Earlier this week, Turkey and Syria experienced a devastating earthquake, and the last couple of days have been difficult for some members of our community. McMaster's International Student Services Office has reached out to undergraduate and graduate students to make sure students who have been impacted by the earthquake are aware of the assistance and supports available to them. Dr. Farrar noted that many of our faculty and staff may also have friends, colleagues or relatives in Turkey or Syria, and may need support and that they can reach out for assistance through the Employee & Family Assistance Program.

Dr. Farrar advised that February is Black History Month and that he was invited to speak at the launch event last week and was pleased to have the opportunity to recognize the important contributions and accomplishments of Black students, faculty and staff at McMaster. It was also an opportunity to reaffirm McMaster's deep commitment to combatting anti-Black racism, and to advancing human rights, equity, and inclusion – on our campus, in our country and globally. Dr. Farrar noted that we have made real progress as a university in making visible the experiences of Black students and scholars at McMaster, and in taking initial steps to improve that experience and remove barriers to full participation in all aspects of the University. Dr. Farrar noted that he looks forward to continuing to work in partnership with Black communities at McMaster toward our shared goal of creating a fully inclusive campus where all members of the McMaster community can thrive.

Part of that important work includes developing new opportunities for McMaster faculty and students to engage in Black and African diasporic research and scholarship. McMaster is now the lead Canadian partner in the Canada-Caribbean Institute, co-founded by the University of the West Indies. The institute is dedicated to bringing together scholars from across Canada and the Caribbean to collaborate on economic, environmental and social issues that contribute to the shared prosperity of both regions. This is a great opportunity for McMaster to build on the strong relationships we have in the Caribbean with faculty, students, alumni, research partnerships and collections such as the Louise Bennett Coverley 'Miss Lou' archive. Dr. Farrar explained that many innovative partnerships between McMaster and Caribbean scholars and institutions will emerge from this important initiative.

McMaster researchers were recently awarded \$61 million in funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for clinical trials – this is an area in which McMaster is truly a global leader and has been for decades. \$8 million of that funding will support Phase 2 clinical trials for McMaster's inhaled COVID-19 vaccine, developed by researchers in the Fitzhenry Vector Lab. Pre-clinical trials have shown that McMaster's inhaled vaccine is far more effective at inducing protective immune responses than traditional injections, and this funding brings us one step closer to transforming the way vaccines for COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases are delivered.

The search for an academic director and an endowed chair for McMaster's new Wilson College of Leadership and Civic Engagement is now underway. Both are tenured positions that begin with a five-year term and are projected to start on July 1. The College's academic director will be

responsible for developing academic programming and building an equitable and diverse community of students and researchers. The Endowed Chair in Leadership and Civic Studies will contribute to scholarship in civic studies, helping to build McMaster's reputation for research and teaching excellence. In addition, Dr. Farrar, along with Dean Swett and Dean Hurley, will be meeting with a group of Canadian business, media and government leaders on Friday afternoon in Toronto to get their perspectives on Wilson College and civic engagement. We will also be seeking feedback on potential candidates for the Executive Director and the External Advisory Council positions. The College will offer a Bachelor of Arts in Leadership and Civic Studies, as well as a minor. The minor will launch in 2023-24 academic year, pending approval. The BA is slated to launch in 2025.

Dr. Farrar explained that they have also launched the search for McMaster's new Vice-President (University Advancement). This role provides leadership and direction in the areas of development and fundraising, and plays a critically important role in advancing the university's strategy, developing and building partnerships, and engaging with donors and stakeholders. This role will also oversee the planning and launch of McMaster's next fundraising campaign. The selection committee has been approved by the Senate and has begun meeting. The appointment of the successful candidate will be announced once confirmed by the Senate and Board of Governors. Dr. Farrar added that they are hoping to have the successful candidate in place this spring.

Last month, a team of four McMaster MBA students won the John Molson International MBA International Case Competition. This competition is the oldest, largest and most prestigious MBA case competition globally. McMaster's team competed against 36 teams from 17 countries, and not only did they win, they also swept the competition, winning every one of their seven matches throughout the week. This is a truly exceptional achievement, and Dr. Farrar extended his congratulations to the whole team, as well as to Professor Milena Head who coached the team to victory.

Dr. Farrar shared that Sarah Arsalan, a graduate student in Kinesiology, and her team have placed first in the Universitas 21 and PwC Innovation Challenge, a prestigious global competition that brings together university students from around the world to tackle some of society's biggest challenges. This year, participants were asked to evaluate the extent to which they think governments should support the private sector in addressing environmental and societal concerns. Dr. Farrar noted he is delighted to see McMaster students engaging with key global issues in this way, and congratulated Sarah and her team on their achievement.

Dr. Farrar explained that they are continuing to connect with all levels of government and updating them on the many great initiatives and accomplishments happening here on campus. Two weeks ago, they had the opportunity to welcome the Prime Minister and the federal cabinet to the McMaster Innovation Park. The PM had the chance to see the McMaster Automotive Resource Centre and the McMaster Manufacturing Research Institute, led by Ali Emadi (Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Director of MacAUTO). It was an incredible opportunity for our faculty and student researchers to showcase their innovative work in the growing field of clean transportation and advanced manufacturing. Dr. Farrar advised that he also had the chance to speak with the Prime Minister about McMaster's research priorities in areas that are important

for Canada and the world including the electrification of vehicles, biomanufacturing and preparing for pandemics and biological threats through Global Nexus. He also advised the Prime Minister about our plans for McMaster Innovation Park and how it is not only going to change this region but drive innovation in this part of the world. During the visit, discussions were had with Francois-Phillipe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry and our local MP and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario, Filomena Tassi. They discussed Global Nexus and the importance of Canada having a centre where experts can collaborate with the best technology and knowledge to develop and deploy relevant and timely solutions to prevent, prepare for and protect against pandemics and biological threats. Dr. Farrar, along with Vice President Research Karen Mossman, had the opportunity to tour the federal Minister of Health, Jean- Yves Duclos through the Fitzhenry Lab and Institute for Infectious Disease Research. Minister Duclos learned about the important research on infectious disease that our faculty and student researchers are conducting along with a discussion on the inhaled COVID-19 vaccine. Dr. Farrar's message to the Prime Minister and the federal ministers was that we will face future pandemics and we need to be prepared for the next one. He informed the Prime Minister and federal ministers that McMaster can play an even greater leadership role in coordinating expertise to develop rapid and effective responses to biological threats to benefit Canada but also the world. Dr. Farrar advised that he looks forward to continuing discussions with the federal government on funding opportunities for our key research priorities.

On January 26th, Hamilton Mayor Andrea Horwath was at the McMaster Museum of Art for the opening of an exhibit called "The Contemporaries," which features the work of eight McMaster art graduates. The exhibit runs until April 6th. The Mayor had the chance to interact with students, faculty and other invited guests. Last week, Vice-President, Operations and Finance, Ms Saher Fazilat, and Dr. Farrar met with the Mayor to discuss illegal street parties. Mayor Horwath shared her concerns about the cost of policing, and we discussed how we can work together to strongly discourage people from attending illegal street parties and other shared concerns.

A student group, Raise the Floor McMaster, was in attendance to protest and highlight their dissatisfaction with the minimum level of funding for graduate students at the University.

A question was raised by the student group in attendance concerning the status of elections to fill empty seats on Graduate Council. They also requested that the vacant seats be filled in the next two weeks. Dr. Hranilovic explained that Graduate Council is an independent body which is accountable to Senate and has By-Laws. The graduate members are elected by graduate students in each Faculty. They solicit applications each year and despite efforts, they have had vacancies. Dr. Hranilovic clarified that the graduate students elect their own representatives and that he can examine the By-Laws to review the procedures for mid-term elections.

Dr. Grasselli informed Senators that the Provost will be making a statement on March 1, 2023 at the upcoming State of the Academy. Members were encouraged to attend.

1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA – OPEN SESSION

Dr. Farrar confirmed that no requests had been received to move items from the Consent to the Regular agenda of the Open Session.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the Open Session agenda for the meeting of February 8, 2023 and that item 2 be approved by Consent.

The motion was **carried**.

CONSENT

2 MINUTES of the Meeting of January 11, 2023 – Open Session

Motion:

that the minutes of the Open Session of the meeting held on January 11, 2023 be approved as circulated.

Approved by Consent.

REGULAR

3 BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising.

4 ENQUIRIES

An enquiry was raised by Dr. Joëlle Papillon. Dr. Papillon explained that she was contacted by graduate students in her Faculty to raise questions about the taskforce on graduate funding. Dr. Papillon asked for a timeline for the taskforce activities and who will be involved at each phase. There were requests to have students involved in all levels, for an update of the taskforce at each Senate, and for a commitment to raise graduate funding for next semester. Dr. Farrar confirmed that they will bring updates to future meetings.

Dr. Hranilovic explained that the process will be made as transparent as possible and that the taskforce does not exist yet. There is an ad hoc subcommittee of Graduate Council consisting of Dr. Hranilovic and the Associate Deans. The engagement process will include graduate students, advisors, and administration from across campus.

The student group in attendance commented on the lack of engagement for students and expressed that \$13,500 is not enough for funding. Dr. Hranilovic explained that graduate funding is a long standing issue and that in order to have a fulsome and constructive discussion they need input from all stakeholders. The first step is underway; collecting

data to understand what is being paid to students and the results will be shared with graduate students, faculty and administration.

Dr. Papillon asked whether Dr. Hranilovic was willing to commit to a raise in funding for next semester. Dr. Hranilovic noted that he understands the pressures and advised that they want to build a mechanism to discuss the data. A subcommittee is going to be created within Graduate Council and graduate students were encouraged to participate. A report is anticipated at the end of the term.

The student group expressed that they wanted to be involved with gathering the data, requested a student representative on the taskforce and noted that the GSA is working on the same project. The students added that they are shut out of the process, that they do not need seven months to know that the funding is inadequate, and that the cost of living information sent in admission letters is not accurate. They expressed a lack of clarity about elections to Graduate Council and that there are three vacant student seats. Students requested that the vacant seats be filled in two weeks. Dr. Farrar thanked the students and advised that they are committed to supporting graduate students.

Dr. Papillon clarified that they are waiting for data and that a decision will not be made before the next intake of graduate students arrive.

5 COMMUNICATIONS

a. Digital Learning

Dr. Kim Dej, *Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning*, presented on Digital Learning.

Dr. Dej explained that in response to the pandemic, many lessons were learned around digital learning. Engagement has occurred with groups and faculty members across campus to understand how digital tools can be used and the framework will be launched in Spring 2023. Digital learning is used to enhance and build upon our history of teaching and learning. Dr. Dej noted that there is not one way to teach in the physical or virtual classroom and they need to consider affordability, accessibility and security. Dr. Dej explained that strategic priorities include academic integrity, building institutional capacity, a clear and transparent process for piloting new projects, providing supports and sustainability to keep them going, and preparing students for a digital workforce. Key projects include increasing the number of hybrid and online class sections offered in all academic terms.

A member noted that when the University returned to in person, there was a push for classes to be delivered in person and faculty had to justify keeping courses online. The member asked if there is a process for changing how courses are taught. Dr. Dej advised that they are discussing and evaluating why courses are best suited or enhanced by digital learning. That will be build into systems around the curriculum approval processes. Department program leads have the best knowledge of where there are pieces that would benefit from digital tools.

6 REPORT FROM GRADUATE COUNCIL

Dr. Steve Hranilovic, *Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies*, presented the report.

i. Faculty of Social Sciences – Social Work and Political Science

At its meeting on January 17, 2023, Graduate Council approved a change to the mode of delivery for the Community-Engaged Research & Evaluation Diploma offered by Social Work, and the addition of three new areas of specialization for the Ph.D. in Political Science. Dr. Hranilovic explained that the change in delivery mode is from a traditional in person diploma to one that is virtual and can reach a larger group.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the Faculty of Social Sciences revisions, for inclusion in the 2023-2024 Graduate Calendar, as recommended by Graduate Council and set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried**.

The remainder of items were for information.

- ii. New Program
- iii. Faculty of Business
- iv. New Award

7 REPORT FROM UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

Dr. Kim Dej, *Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning*, presented the report.

Dr. Dej explained that Undergraduate Council meets monthly to discuss and approve the items that have gone through its subcommittees. It then reports and makes recommendations to the University Planning Committee and/or the Senate on matters as required by the Senate by-laws.

The Awards Committee reviews and approves award and bursary descriptions, academic award policies and scholarships and academic awards winners.

The Curriculum and Admissions Committee coordinates the curriculum changes from all Faculties. It also ensures that any new admissions policies or the revision of existing policies are consistent with general University guidelines. There is a delegated approval matrix for changes, with Undergraduate Council approving some curriculum changes under its own authority. Major revisions, new programs, program closures, etc. are sent to the Senate for approval.

The Certificates and Diplomas Committee reviews and approves proposals for new certificate and diploma programs and ensures their conformity with the Senate Policy on Diplomas and Certificates.

i. Certificates and Diplomas Section of the 2023-2024 Undergraduate Calendar

At its meeting on January 24, 2023, Undergraduate Council approved two new concurrent certificates from the Faculties of Humanities and Science, as well as revisions to nine existing certificates from the Faculties of Health Sciences, Humanities and Science, for inclusion in the 2023-2024 Undergraduate Calendar.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve two new concurrent certificate programs, and revisions to nine existing concurrent certificate programs for inclusion in the 2023-2024 Undergraduate Calendar, as set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried**.

ii. New Certificate of Completion Program

Undergraduate Council approved the proposal for the McMaster STEP Certificate program which builds on the MELD program. Dr. Anna Moro, *Associate Professor, Linguistics and Languages*, explained that it is an intensive, short-term program. It is designed for students who are shy of meeting language requirements and provides them with an opportunity to upgrade. The program occurs in July and August and has strict requirements.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the McMaster STEP Certificate Program, as set out in the attached.

The motion was **carried**.

iii. Curriculum Revisions for Inclusion in the 2023-2024 Undergraduate Calendar

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve one new program and major program and curriculum revisions for inclusion in the 2023-2024 Undergraduate Calendar.

The motion was **carried**.

iv. Curriculum Addenda for Inclusion in the 2023-2024 Undergraduate Calendar

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve changes to Admission Requirements, Application Requirements and General Academic Regulations, for inclusion in the 2023-2024 Undergraduate Calendar, as set out in the attached.

In response to a question about waivers for international Indigenous students, Ms Pool explained they do not have a formal policy but can start working on one that would allow domestic tuition rates for Indigenous students from primarily North America.

The motion was **carried**.

The remainder of items were for information. If Senators wish to see documents detailing these items, they are available for review on the Secretariat website.

- v. Terms of Award
- vi. Curriculum Revisions and Addenda for Inclusion in the 2023-2024 Undergraduate Calendar
- vii. Sessional Dates for 2023-2024

8 REPORT FROM THE SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

i. Collegial Governance

Dr. Farrar explained that at its January 25, 2023 meeting, the Executive Committee discussed a session on Collegial Governance for Senators. Senators have received an invitation to attend the additional session which will be held following the March 8, 2023 Senate meeting. The session will be held in Council Chambers with a reception following the session.

In response to a question regarding who has been invited to the session, Ms Thyret-Kidd explained that Senators and Senate Observers have been invited.

ii. Persona Non Grata Declarations Policy

Dr. Farrar explained that an inquiry was raised at the December Senate regarding the Persona Non Grata (PNG) Declarations policy. The Executive Committee reviewed and discussed a memo that provided background on the policy. A PNG declaration is used when an individual is deemed unsafe for the University community. Individuals will be escorted off campus and if they return, can be charged with trespassing. It was agreed that the policy is necessary but there were questions around the governance and approval process of the policy. Dr. Farrar advised that he is seeking assistance from a working group to examine the policy and it will be brought back to Senate. The committee will consist of three faculty

members and one student Senator and will be coordinated by the Secretariat. The Violence in the Workplace policy will also be reviewed by a different working group.

iii. January 2024 Senate Meeting

At its January 25, 2023 meeting, the Executive Committee discussed and approved moving the January 2024 Senate meeting date to provide individuals more time to prepare and submit materials for the meeting and to allow the Secretariat a more reasonable timeframe for posting the meeting materials.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, approve an exception to the Senate By-Laws to permit the January 2024 Senate meeting date be moved to Wednesday, January 17, 2024.

The motion was **carried**.
(1 abstention)

9 REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dr. Steve Hranilovic, member of the University Planning Committee, presented the report.

At its meeting on January 18, 2023, the University Planning Committee approved the following recommendations and now recommends them to Senate for approval:

i. Report from Graduate Council – Master of Biomedical Innovation Program

The Master of Biomedical Innovation (MBI) program will be a multidisciplinary, project-oriented graduate program focused on bridging the gap between device and health system technology development and its transfer into local, national, and international biomedical markets. The MBI will be a one-year program requiring three terms to complete. The proposal has been considered and approved by Graduate Council and the University Planning Committee.

Dr. Michelle McDonald, *Associate Professor, Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences*, provided a brief overview and explained that it is a new program in biomedical innovation.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve the establishment of the Master of Biomedical Innovation (MBI).

The motion was **carried**.

- ii. Closure of the Institute for Multi-Hazard Systemic Risk Studies (INTERFACE)

In Spring of 2021, as per the policy Guidelines for the Governance and Review of Research Institute, Centres and Groups, INTERFACE underwent a five-year external review. The Governing Board unanimously voted to transition INTERFACE from an Institute to a Research Group. The closure and transition is a result of the institute completing its mission.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the closure of the Institute for Multi-Hazard System Risk Studies (INTERFACE).

The motion was **carried**.
(1 technical abstention, 1 abstention)

10 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.