

## McMaster University

### SENATE MINUTES

VOL. CXI

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

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**PRESENT:** Dr. David Farrar, Mr. Ahmed Abdalla, Dr. Alfonso Iorio, Ms Brenda O'Connor, Dr. Brenda Vrkljan, Dr. Claudia Emerson, Dr. Dina Brooks, Dr. Hendrik Poinar, Ms Heva Olfman, Dr. James Benn, Dr. Jeremiah Hurley, Dr. Joëlle Papillon, Dr. Khaled Hassanein, Dr. Kim Dej, Dr. Lorraine Carter, Dr. Maikel Rheinstadter, Dr. Manaf Zargoush, Dr. Mark Boda, Mr. Mark Fahmy, Dr. Matthew Miller, Dr. Maureen MacDonald, Dr. Melinda Gough, Dr. Michael McGillion, Dr. Nathan Andrews, Dr. Pamela Swett, Dr. Pau Pujolas, Dr. Paul Andrews, Dr. Paul Higgs, Mx Si Liu, Dr. Stephanie Springgay, Dr. Steve Hranilovic, Dr. Sue McCracken, Dr. Susan Tighe, Dr. Todd Hoare, Ms Andrea Thyret-Kidd (University Secretary), Ms Michelle Zheng (Associate University Secretary), Ms Alysha Sless (Assistant University Secretary)

**OBSERVERS:** Ms Andrea Farquhar, Dr. Andy Knights, Dr. Bonny Ibhawoh, Ms Caroline Seiler, Ms Carolyn Brendon, Dr. Elisabeth Marquis, Ms Hanna Rao, Ms Karen Richmond, Dr. Katherine Cuff, Dr. Matheus Grasselli, Mr. Rob Walters, Dr. Sandra Carroll, Mr. Sean Van Koughnett, Dr. Susan Denburg, Ms Vivian Lewis

**REGRETS:** Ms Debbie Martin, Dr. Chris Sinding, Mx Kusum Bhatta, Mr. Jim McCaughey, Dr. Heather Sheardown, Dr. Karen Mossman, Dr. Paul O'Byrne, Ms Saher Fazilat, Dr. Mark Walton, Dr. Jeff Weitz, Dr. Rick Monture, Dr. Kalai Saravanamuttu, Dr. Paul Faure

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#### **A. OPEN SESSION**

##### **OPENING REMARKS**

Dr. Farrar welcomed members to the meeting and began by acknowledging 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 recognized that today is International Women's Day, a day to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women globally. It is a reminder of the critical importance of continuing to push for gender-equity on our campus – something many faculty, staff and students across McMaster have worked actively for many years to make a reality. Dr. Farrar highlighted one of the many ways our campus community is making progress on this important issue. As Senators are aware, women have historically been underrepresented in STEM fields across the post-secondary sector. This year, the Faculty of Engineering has reported that 40% of its 1st year students are female.

Dr. Farrar explained that graduate student funding is a challenge felt by McMaster and its students, and by universities across the higher education sector. It is a complex issue and the current affordability challenges faced by many in our society have amplified the need for a thorough review. To address this important concern, on the recommendation of our Provost, Dr. Susan Tighe, and Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr. Steve Hranilovic, and approved by Graduate Council, the Task Force on Graduate Funding has been formed. The Task Force's membership includes Graduate Council Student representatives from each of the six Faculties. The Task Force will be evidence-based and focused on developing a detailed understanding of the current funding environment and multiple funding sources of McMaster's graduate students and the funding challenges facing graduate students. It will include consultation with the Graduate Student Association, graduate students, faculty members, Deans and Associate Deans, MUFA, CUPE and the broader university community. It will make recommendations on short and long-term solutions to Graduate Council, the Senate and the Provost & Vice-President, Academic. The final report of the Task Force will be completed by the end of 2023. Dr. Farrar thanked Provost Tighe and Dean Hranilovic for their leadership on this important file and noted that he looks forward to the final report.

Dr. Farrar explained that graduate student funding was also an important topic discussed at the annual State of the Academy address, delivered by the Provost last week. It was an excellent presentation that highlighted many key initiatives and critical projects at the University and offered a snapshot of McMaster's successes. Unfortunately, the address was disrupted by a group of student protestors, and Dr. Farrar advised that he wanted to address two inquiries that arose as a result of this disruption: The issue of freedom of expression and the presence of security at the State of the Academy. McMaster's Freedom of Expression Guidelines were created to support the rights and freedoms of all members of our community, and any speakers on campus. At the State of the Academy, the Provost had not yet finished her remarks when the students began to speak over her and did not wait until the Q&A period that the Deputy Provost indicated would be available at the end of the presentation. Also contrary to the guidelines document, the students attempted to hand out materials during the meeting, jumped onto the stage, interfered with the audience's ability to see and hear the speaker and used megaphones to obstruct the presentation. Everyone who attended the event also had the right to hear the speaker, not to have their view or access to the event impeded, and to participate in the question and answer session. The guidelines also help moderators know how to manage these situations including asking for the actions to stop and warning that protestors may be asked to leave. If the interference does not stop, the moderator can seek the assistance of Security or decide to relocate or end the event. Despite the moderator identifying the behaviour as unacceptable, the protest at the State of the Academy continued and the moderator chose to conclude the event early as was appropriate under the guidelines. In terms of the presence of Security Services, the University is responsible for the health and safety of everyone at the University and for ensuring a safe workplace and learning place free from harassment and violence. Organizers of any event on campus are required to consider any potential safety concerns and work with Health and Safety and Security as needed. This requirement is outlined in the Freedom of Expression Guidelines. It is unfortunately the case that threatening statements were made against the Provost and so appropriate security precautions were taken for the State of the Academy. Security Services works with university leaders and others to assess security risks for a variety of activities and circumstances in accordance with Health and Safety and other regulations the University is required to meet.

Dr. Farrar informed Senators that a few weeks ago, McMaster hosted a reception at the University's newly opened Toronto location at 180 Bloor Street to discuss the development of Wilson College. It was the first event to be held in that space, which is located just down the street from McMaster's original campus that now houses the Royal Conservatory of Music. About 15 distinguished Canadians attended the reception including our Board chair, Ms Jane Allen, federal and provincial policy-makers – past and present– global academic leaders, experts from the non-profit sector and from media, all of whom provided great advice on the best way to approach leadership education and development in Canada. They also provided valuable feedback on the search for the External Director of Wilson College, and the future membership of the Wilson College Advisory Council, a body of high-profile Canadians who will bring valuable external perspectives to the College's plans and activities. Dean of Humanities Dr. Pamela Swett, Dean of Social Sciences Dr. Jerry Hurley and Dr. Farrar, along with members of McMaster's senior leadership team all attended the event and took away lots of great insights from these conversations. Dr. Farrar noted that he looks forward to continuing to engage many of these individuals as we develop Wilson College.

As mentioned at the last Senate meeting, McMaster is now the lead Canadian partner in the Canada-Caribbean Institute (CCI), which is dedicated to bringing together scholars from across Canada and the Caribbean to collaborate on issues that contribute to the shared prosperity of both regions. Dr. Farrar advised that last week he attended the CCI's annual symposium at the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus in Barbados. This was an excellent opportunity to learn more about the CCI and to meet leaders from other member universities. Dr. Farrar added that he looks forward to sharing the ways in which McMaster faculty and students can become engaged in the CCI as McMaster's involvement in the Institute evolves.

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. At the provincial level, McMaster recently made its pre-budget submission. The submission asked for funding to support the ongoing development of Canada's Global Nexus for Pandemics and Biological Threats, and emphasized the importance of supporting innovation by continuing to invest in the Ontario Research Fund, and the Ontario Centre of Innovation. We also asked for further investment in McMaster's Nuclear Reactor to enable us to operate 24 hours a day, five days a week, so we can increase the amount and diversity of medical isotopes produced and accelerate research into advanced materials and clean energy technologies. Senators might be interested to know that 70,000 cancer patients a year benefit from medical isotopes produced in our reactor. As well, we highlighted the importance of ensuring quality, affordability and financial sustainability of universities.

In response to a question about tuition, Dr. Farrar explained that tuition has been frozen for five years and the government has said they are freezing it for another year. They have not committed to unfreeze the grant portion either. Ontario is the lowest funded province for postsecondary education. Dr. Farrar added that the government announced a Blue Ribbon task force this week and that McMaster, along with the COU, is preparing a submission for the task force to unfreeze tuition and block grant funding.

Dr. Farrar informed Senators that the Secretariat is looking for two scrutineers for the Faculty Elections to Senate. It will be conducted over Zoom on Friday, March 24 and interested individuals are asked to please email senate@mcmaster.ca.

Senators were also informed to watch their emails for the call for Senators who are interested in serving on the Board of Governors next year.

## **1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA – OPEN SESSION**

Dr. Farrar confirmed that the minutes are being removed from the agenda to add a comment about the disruption that occurred at the last meeting. The Open Session minutes will be presented at the next meeting.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the Open Session agenda for the meeting of March 8, 2023.**

The motion was **carried**.

## **CONSENT**

## **2 MINUTES of the Meeting of February 8, 2023 – Open Session**

This item was removed from the agenda.

## **REGULAR**

## **3 BUSINESS ARISING**

A member asked for an update on the Ad Hoc Committee to review the Persona Non Grata Policy. Ms Thyret-Kidd advised that four Senators will serve on the Committee and they are hoping to have the membership confirmed next week and then will proceed with scheduling meetings.

## **4 ENQUIRIES**

There were no enquiries.

## **5 COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications.

## **6 REPORT FROM GRADUATE COUNCIL**

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

i. Faculty of Social Sciences – Master of Public Policy Program

At its meeting on February 21, 2023 and via e-ballot on February 27, 2023, Graduate Council approved a change to the mode of delivery, from in person to virtual, for the Master of Public Policy Program. The program launched in 2021, during the pandemic, in an online format. Dr. Hranilovic explained that the program is meeting all objectives in this format, and the proposal is to change the program from conventional to online.

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**.

Dr. Hranilovic added that at the February meeting they approved the revisions to the Policy on Academic Program Development and Review. This policy will be presented to the Senate in the report from Undergraduate Council.

The remainder of items were for information.

ii. Task Force on Graduate Student Funding

Dr. Hranilovic explained that the Terms of Reference for the Task Force on Graduate Funding were circulated to Graduate Council. Changes were made based on feedback and all spots on the Committee were filled this week. The Committee is chaired by Dr. Hranilovic and consists of six students, one from each faculty, Associate Deans, and the Deputy Provost. The Committee will create a plan for consultation and establish timelines and inputs that are needed.

- iii. Faculty of Business
- iv. Faculty of Health Sciences
- v. Faculty of Social Sciences
- vi. Sessional Dates
- vii. New Awards

## 7 REPORT FROM UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

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

i. Policy on Academic Program Development and Review

At its meeting on January 24, 2023, the Undergraduate Council approved, for recommendation to the Senate, revisions to the Policy on Academic Program

Development and Review. This policy, commonly referred to as the IQAP policy, outlines the review process for academic programs. The changes are based on recommended changes from Quality Council, and both track change and clean version copies have been provided.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the proposed revisions to the Policy on Academic Program Development and Review, effective March 8, 2023, as circulated.**

The motion was **carried**.

ii. Addenda to Curriculum Revisions

At its meeting on February 28, 2023, Undergraduate Council approved, for recommendation to Senate, the Biochemistry Exit (B.H.Sc.) degree as recommended by the Faculty of Health Sciences.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve revisions to the Faculty of Health Sciences General Academic Regulations to introduce the Biochemistry Exit (B.H.Sc.) as an exit degree, as set out in the attached.**

The motion was **carried**.

The remainder of items were for information.

iii. Terms of Award

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

## **8 REPORT FROM THE FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Dr. Jerry Hurley, *Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences*, presented the report.

Dr. Hurley explained that the Faculty of Social Sciences is proposing an amendment to include the new Indigenous Studies Department and changes to the Faculty's Associate Dean positions and titles.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve, in principle, the amendments to the Faculty of Social Sciences By-Laws and refer the amendments to the By-Laws Committee for review.**

The motion was **carried**.

**9 REPORT FROM THE UNIVERSITY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Dr. Susan Tighe, *Provost and Vice-President (Academic)*, presented the report.

At its meeting on February 8, 2023, the University Planning Committee approved the following recommendations and now recommends them to Senate for approval:

i. Global NEXUS School for Pandemic Prevention and Response Proposal

Dr. Tighe invited Dr. Gerry Wright, *Executive Director, Canada's Global Nexus for Pandemics and Biological Threats*, to speak to the proposal. Dr. Wright explained that interdisciplinary work is the inspiration for the School and that the concept is unique in Canada. There has been tremendous buy-in and the emphasis is on an interdisciplinary approach to address problems. Dr. Wright added that there is an opportunity to train leaders of the future, and existing individuals in an interdisciplinary fashion. The School is bringing people together across campus and there has already been a lot of success.

Dr. Tighe thanked Dr. Wright for his critical leadership.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the creation of the Global Nexus School for Pandemic Prevention and Response, effective July 1, 2023.**

The motion was **carried**.

Dr. Farrar congratulated Dr. Wright and the team.

ii. Name Change – Department of Radiology

Dr. Tighe explained that the proposed name, Department of Medical Imaging, more accurately reflects the expanded academic discipline and aligns the department with similar departments in medical schools across the country.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the proposed name change for the Department of Radiology to the Department of Medical Imaging, effective July 1, 2023.**

The motion was **carried**.

iii. Report from Undergraduate Council

This report was approved by the University Planning Committee on February 8, 2023. It was reported and approved by Senate on February 8, 2023, through Undergraduate Council. Due to timing issues, the material is now coming to Senate from the University Planning Committee for information.

## 10 REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Todd Hoare, *Chair of the Senate Committee on Appointments*, presented the report.

On February 13, 2023, the Committee on Appointments approved the following recommendations and now recommends them to Senate for approval:

i. Terms of Reference

a. Title Change – Associate Dean (Academic)

Dr. Hoare explained that the Associate Deans deal with undergraduate issues and all five Deans agreed that Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies is more reflective of the position. The Faculty of Health Sciences will continue to use ‘Vice-Dean, Education’, reflecting different accountabilities and organizational structures with respect to the professional programs it oversees.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve changing the title of Associate Dean (Academic) to Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies, effective July 1, 2023.**

The motion was **carried**.

b. Revised Terms of Reference – Director, David Braley Centre for Antibiotic Discovery (DBCAD)

Dr. Hoare explained that the original terms of reference for the Directorship were outlined in the proposal for the establishment of the Centre. A separate Terms of Reference document has now been created and the terms updated to officially align the position with the role of Director, Michael G. DeGroote Institute for Infectious Disease Research.

It was duly moved and seconded,

**that Senate approve the revised terms of reference for the Director of the David Braley Centre for Antibiotic Discovery (DBCAD), as circulated.**

The motion was **carried**.



- ii. SPS B13 – Extension of Timeline for Academic Assessments in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

SPS B13 is coming forward for information as there was a requirement that the SPS be reviewed at the end of 2022. There were no changes to the policy and the review date was added to show the requirement was met.

## 11 REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

Mr. Sean Van Koughnett, *Chair of the Committee on Student Affairs*, presented the report.

- i. Student Affairs Report

At its meeting on February 15, 2023, the Committee on Student Affairs received a report on the overview of Student Affairs which outlined services, funding and achievements.

Mr. Van Koughnett explained that the report outlines the priorities, initiatives, and relationships with student groups across the institution. The report emphasized the important theme of student's sense of belonging. Highlights include the importance of supporting well being, importance of physical spaces on campus, and how a number of spaces evolved over the pandemic, including the Wellness Centre, the Black Student Success Centre, fitness space, prayer space and studying and lounge space. Mr. Van Koughnett noted that all spaces have evolved over the past five year, and they are the spaces that enable us to support students.

In response to a question about the Committee, Mr. Van Koughnett explained that the Committee on Student Affairs is a Senate Committee comprised of students and faculty. At their meeting they focused on the division of Student Affairs.

This item was for information.

## 12 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.