

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SENATE

VOL. CXV

Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 3:30 p.m., Council Chambers, Gilmour Hall 111

PRESENT: David Farrar (Chair), Ahmed Abdalla, Maxwell Altman, Nathan Andrews, Paul Andrews, Hfsa Awan, James Benn, Kusum Bhatta, Mark Boda, Blaise Bourdin, Dina Brooks, Lorraine Carter, Narat Charupat, Kim Dej, Wael El-Dakhakhni, Claudia Emerson, Paul Faure, Saher Fazilat, Carlos Filipe, Saara Greene, Khaled Hassanein, Faiza Hirji, Steve Hranilovic, Jeremiah Hurley, Suleiman Igdoura, Keegan Johnson, Manish Kacker, Andy Knights, Lili Litwin, Graeme Luke, Maureen MacDonald, Sanamdeep Matharu, John Medcof, Rick Monture, Mehdi Narimani, Brenda O'Connor, Heva Olfman, Joëlle Papillon, Pau Pujolas, Kalai Saravanamuttu, Heather Sheardown, Chris Sinding, Stephanie Springgay, Pamela Swett, Susan Tighe, Brenda Vrkljan, Zimo Wang, Kerry Yang, Margaret Zanel, Eugenia Zuroski
Andrea Thyret-Kidd (*University Secretary*), Christine Richard (*Associate University Secretary*), Alysha Sless (*Assistant University Secretary*)

REGRETS: Siying Lu, Paul O'Byrne, Stacey Ritz, Dennis Souder, Renae Watchman

OBSERVERS: Catherine Anderson, Carolyn Brendon, Sandra Carroll, Rosa da Silva, Andrea Farquhar, Bonny Ibhawoh, Vivian Lewis, Jack Mah, Melissa Pool, Jovan Popovic, Karen Richmond, Sarah Robinson, Sean Van Koughnett, Barington Walker, Rob Walters

OPEN SESSION

David Farrar, *President & Vice-Chancellor*, welcomed members and reminded them of the voting procedures.

D. Farrar acknowledged that we meet today on the traditional territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee nations and within the lands protected by the Dish with One Spoon wampum agreement.

D. Farrar explained that the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation have raised some concerns with the Land Acknowledgement. The Indigenous Education Council (IEC) is reviewing the concerns and D. Farrar had the opportunity to recently speak to IEC Co-Chair Dawn Martin-Hill and Senator Rick Monture about the progress on the review. Earlier this week D. Farrar, along with the Vice-Presidents and AVP, Student Affairs had a very informative discussion with Dawn Martin-Hill and two students about the history of Six Nations and the detrimental impact of the *Indian Act* which was imposed by the Canadian government on Six Nations in 1924. The Vice-Presidents and D. Farrar also had the opportunity to visit Chancellor Santee Smith's dance studio and garden to learn more about her family's history, her dance performances and Six Nations. D. Farrar noted that he looks forward to sharing his interview with Santee as part of the University's upcoming Truth & Reconciliation activities at the end of this month. D. Farrar has also been invited by elected Chief of Six Nations of the Grand River, Mark Hill to visit Six Nations to discuss how McMaster and

Six Nations can develop strong relationships. D. Farrar noted that he looks forward to continuing to strengthen our understanding and relationships with Indigenous communities.

September 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. D. Farrar noted that it is a day to recognize the history and ongoing impacts of the residential school system, and also to honour the experiences, achievements, and resilience of Indigenous Peoples. We can all help build a culture of Truth and Reconciliation on our campus by taking time to educate ourselves about Indigenous history and cultures. From September 23 to 30, there will be a number of events on campus to commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and to deepen our understanding of the history and continuing impact of the residential school system. Details will be available on the Daily News in the coming days.

D. Farrar expressed that the past couple of weeks have been exciting with the arrival of students to McMaster – some returning, and some are new to campus. It is always amazing to see how welcoming students are to each other, and how our student groups take so much care to create a campus environment where all students can feel safe and supported. D. Farrar noted that it is equally important that we all feel safe in our teaching and learning environments. The act of gender and identity-based violence that took place at the University of Waterloo in June led to many discussions here, and at many university campuses this summer. As a result, McMaster has taken additional steps to help keep our campus safe.

Susan Tighe, *Provost & Vice-President (Academic)*, explained that the terrible incident at the University of Waterloo prompted many discussions. Faculties should have received an announcement that classroom information is not publicly available, posted or shared electronically. S. Tighe reminded everyone that they should have the safety app on their phone. If there is an emergency on campus, that is how information is shared. Members were encouraged to take Professor Hippo on Campus which is a program that was developed at McMaster. It provides instructors with tools for identifying students that may be struggling. There are many training opportunities, seminars, and activities that individuals can participate in and there are resources available. S. Tighe acknowledged all the colleagues that came together, many from the Faculty of Humanities, to help us prepare as a university. It was added that Catherine Anderson was interviewed by CHCH on the work McMaster is doing in this area.

D. Farrar advised that this coming year will present several opportunities for discussions on important topics like the review of the Discrimination and Harassment Policy, Sexual Violence Policy, the Faculty Code of Conduct, a Master's program for the Indigenous Studies Department and the undergraduate program for Wilson College. To have good discussions, it is important that Senators are familiar with the reading materials which are posted one week in advance of Senate meetings. D. Farrar explained that as there will be busy agendas starting with the October Senate meeting, Senators are encouraged to reach out the University Secretariat or the presenter of the item before the meeting with any questions, suggested revisions or friendly amendments. Senators can also reach out to D. Farrar and his office to discuss the items. It is important to recognize that most items that are presented at the Senate for approval have already been reviewed by one or more committees made up of Senators and/or faculty members. When introducing an item, the presenter will be asked to provide an overview of the process which has led to the item coming to the Senate. D. Farrar noted that he looks forward to presentations to the Senate on important issues and initiatives related to McMaster which although may not be under the Senate's mandate, it will be extremely beneficial to receive the Senate's feedback.

D. Farrar explained that the wildfires that burned across Canada this summer have reminded us once again of the catastrophic impacts of climate change and of the critical importance of reaching net-zero carbon emissions, on our campus and globally. McMaster is deeply committed to sustainability and to doing all we can to work toward a net-zero campus. Over the summer, a committee to review McMaster's Net-Zero Campus Roadmap began meeting to develop concrete actions and targets for achieving net-zero emissions on campus. The committee met again on Monday, and is led by Dave Cano, McMaster's Director of Sustainability and Alvin Baldovino, Director of Engineering Operations. It includes faculty, staff and students who are experts in the field of sustainability or have a great interest in carbon emissions reduction. McMaster also has outstanding research expertise in this area, and we are working with our researchers to develop new net-zero carbon solutions that can be implemented on our campus.

Last week, staff from Housing and Conference Services welcomed the first 250 students to the new graduate residence located in downtown Hamilton at 10 Bay Street. This is an exciting milestone for McMaster in providing additional housing options for students – particularly international students. Many people worked around the clock to make sure the rooms were ready for students and their families to move in, and D. Farrar thanked everyone who ensured the building was open and who have worked to create a great place for our students to live and study. When the building is completed, 644 bed spaces will be available to students. They were unable to open the entire building due to the skilled trade shortage, and supply chain issues caused by the pandemic which impacted the timelines of the project. D. Farrar acknowledged that there are those who feel the price point is difficult for some students, but it is an important option, and we will continue to look for ways to provide more housing options for students. The cost and supply of housing is a national crisis and talks are continuing with our city partners, as well as our researchers to find solutions. In August, D. Farrar had a meeting, and conversations with mayor Horwath on the topic of housing. D. Farrar explained that they are also participating in working groups with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and Council of Universities to discuss student housing options in the university sector. This year, we will be breaking ground on Lincoln Alexander Hall, which will provide another 1,400 housing spaces, ensuring a residence space for all our first-year students who want to stay in residence. In the past four years, we have built, or are building, 2,500 housing spaces for students – that is one of the largest commitments to housing among Canadian universities. However, we know that more needs to be done. Earlier today, the federal government announced funding for the City of London to build affordable housing. D. Farrar advised that they will continue to speak with the City on this ongoing issue.

Last month, McMaster launched its “Be a Good Neighbour” campaign. This is the second year the campaign has been run, and it is aimed at encouraging students who live in the Westdale and Ainsley Woods neighbourhoods to positively contribute to the neighbourhood. McMaster won a national award for this campaign last year. Being a good neighbour means many things, including being respectful and responsible, which is always a good reminder at this time of year.

D. Farrar advised that the June 8 Board meeting had a long agenda. The Board received several reports including:

- The Capital Funding and Expenditure Report;
- The Health, Safety and Well-Being Annual Report;
- The Investment Pool's Statement of Investment Policies & Procedures; and
- McMaster's Response to the Auditor General of Ontario's Special Report on Laurentian University

The Board also received for information and approval recommendations from the May and June Senate meetings including the proposal to establish the Centre for Research on Community Oriented Entrepreneurship (CRCE)

The Board approved the following items:

- 2023-24 Consolidated Budget
- 2023-24 & 2024-25 Tuition and Miscellaneous Fee Package
- McMaster University Campus Plan 2023-33
- Sustainability Policy
- Energy Management Plan
- Research Commercialization Annual Financial Report; and
- Ratified the Collective agreement with CUPE Local 3906 Unit 3 (Postdoctoral Fellows)

D. Farrar provided an update on the Persona Non Grata committee. The committee has continued meeting over the summer, and we appreciate the input of all committee members who have provided valuable insights on how to make this policy as effective as possible.

Last week, McMaster scholars Lehana Thabane, Hertzell Gerstein, Eric Brown and Graeme Luke, were named Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada. Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada are exceptional Canadian scholars who have made remarkable contributions to the arts, humanities, or sciences, and to Canadian public life. L. Thabane, H. Gerstein, E. Brown and G. Luke were all named to the Society's Academy of Science. D. Farrar offered a special congratulations to G. Luke who, in addition to being a Fellow of the Royal Society, is also a new member of the Senate.

D. Farrar congratulated Jeffrey Weitz, who is also a member of the Senate, Santee Smith; Savage Bear; and Gary Purdy who were appointed to the Order of Canada. As one of Canada's highest civilian honours, this is a tremendous accomplishment. D. Farrar thanked J. Weitz and all of McMaster recipients for their many contributions to McMaster, to our community, and to our country.

D. Farrar shared some updates from McMaster's senior leadership team. Andy Knights has assumed the role of Acting VP (Research) while Karen Mossman is on research leave. For the past two years, A. Knights has served as McMaster's Associate Vice-President (Research). He has nearly three decades of academic and industry experience and is globally recognized for his research excellence in the field of optical materials and circuits. Andrea Farquhar has been appointed McMaster's inaugural Chief Executive, Internal and External Engagement, continuing to oversee the Communications, Marketing and Public Affairs team. In this role, A. Farquhar will build stronger partnerships across and outside of the institution; more purposefully develop engagement with our internal stakeholders; and continue to strengthen relationships and McMaster's reputation locally, nationally, and internationally. Melissa Pool has been selected as McMaster's new Associate Vice-President, Academic Planning and Finance. M. Pool has served as the University's Registrar for the past 13 years and has an in-depth knowledge of McMaster's academic areas and extensive knowledge of the University. Sarah Robinson, who has been the Assistant Dean, Academic, in the Faculty of Science, will serve as acting Registrar.

Work continues with our provincial and federal government partners on issues of importance to McMaster and the post-secondary sector. It is anticipated that the Blue Ribbon Panel, looking into the financial sustainability of Ontario universities, will release its report in the next few weeks. D. Farrar noted that they have heard the report will make a number of recommendations, but we will have to wait to see how the provincial government responds. The issue of research security has received a lot of attention from both from the federal government and the media over the past several months. D. Farrar advised that we are waiting to see what the federal government decides in terms of restrictions on working with partners in other countries, including China. This past spring Jesse Cumming joined McMaster as our new Director of Research Security. J. Cumming is a great resource on this, as she previously worked for the Government of Canada in national security. She is leading the development of tools and guidelines for McMaster's research community to mitigate security risks and meet institutional and national security objectives. The federal government has also floated the idea of placing a cap on the number of international students. There has been significant discussion in terms of what the government will do on this issue. Recently, the federal government also linked international students to the housing shortage.

D. Farrar explained that there has been speculation by some that international students at Canadian universities, including McMaster, are contributing significantly to this societal problem. This is not the case. The housing crisis is happening in communities large and small across the country. While there are no easy solutions to this problem, any resolution will need to include the creation of more housing – and McMaster, is working to create more housing options for students. Our international students come from over 120 countries and represent about 15% of our undergraduate and graduate populations. They bring diverse perspectives that enrich the classroom experience for all students, and they strengthen McMaster's world-class research. Work is being done with the U15 and our local members of parliament to ensure the federal government is aware of the importance of international students to McMaster and is a partner in helping to find housing solutions. The federal government has provided funding to increase the housing supply in the City of London. The notion that the federal government is prepared to offer support on housing is encouraging.

D. Farrar introduced and welcomed the following new members of the Senate:

Vice-President (Research) (Acting):	Andy Knights
Faculty of Business:	John Medcof, Manish Kacker
Faculty of Engineering:	Carlos Filipe
Faculty of Humanities:	Faiza Hirji, Eugenia Zuroski
Faculty of Social Sciences:	Saara Greene
Faculty of Science:	Suleiman Igdoura, Blaise Bourdin, Graeme Luke
Faculty of Health Sciences:	Jeff Weitz, Stacey Ritz
Alumni Representatives:	Margaret Zanel, Dennis Souder
Undergraduate Students:	Siyang Lu, Kerry Yang, Hfsa Awan, Zimo Wang
Graduate Students:	Sina Biazar, Sanamdeep Matharu, Maxwell Altman
Board Representative:	Skylar Wang

Senators were informed that the Secretariat is looking for two scrutineers for the Faculty By-Elections to the Senate. Scrutineers will be needed on Friday, October 20. Interested individuals are asked to please email senate@mcmaster.ca.

1. Approval of Agenda – Open Session

D. Farrar explained that questions were raised concerning the open session minutes. The minutes are being removed from the agenda and will be presented at the October Senate meeting.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Senate approve the Open Session agenda for the meeting of September 13, 2023 and that items 3 and 4 be received by Consent.

The motion was **Carried**.

CONSENT**2. Minutes of the Meeting of June 7, 2023 – Open Session**

This item was removed from the agenda.

3. Communications

1. Senate Primer and Confidentiality
2. Senate Meeting Schedule for 2023-2024
3. Senate Committee List for 2023-2024
4. Senate Membership List for 2023-2024

Received by Consent.

4. Report from the Executive Committee

1. Actions Taken on Behalf of the Senate: Terms of Reference
 - a. Revised Terms of Reference – Business Research Chair, Faculty of Business
 - b. Establishment of the Director of the Blended Learning Part-Time MBA Program, Faculty of Business
 - c. Revised Terms of Reference - Director of MBA Programs, Faculty of Business
 - d. Revised Terms of Reference - Director of the CPA Ontario Centre for Accounting Research in Regulatory Reporting
 - e. Revised Terms of Reference - Associate Dean, Research, Innovation, and Partnership, Faculty of Engineering

Received by Consent.

REGULAR**5. Business Arising**

There was no business arising.

6. Enquiries

An individual in attendance addressed the Senate and shared their concerns and experience with the Persona Non Grata Policy. The individual shared in detail the grievance discussions they are having with their union. They encouraged Senators to have them reinstated in their job, to remove the administration's authority in the Persona Non Grata Policy and have the authority transferred to a group of faculty members and students.

7. Communications

1. Preliminary Enrolment Figures

M. Pool explained that the Senate will be provided with final numbers when these reports are available, usually at the December meeting.

M. Pool reported that new level one registrants are similar to last year. McMaster welcomed 6,023 students which is down 1% from last year and within 1.5% of the target. There are 5,378 new domestic students which is one more student than last year. International students are down, there were 645 new students and at this time last year there were 712 international students. M. Pool thanked everyone across campus for their recruitment efforts.

Steve Hranilovic, *Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies* explained that 5,609 registered this year which was a 2.3% increase over last year. The Faculty of Engineering had a significant increase of 7%, the Faculty of Health Sciences, Social Sciences and Science remained stable, the Faculty of Humanities had a 4% reduction, and the Faculty of Business had a 6% reduction. There was also an increase in visa students.

In response to a question about future enrollment projections, S. Hranilovic explained that the projection on international enrolment is strong. M. Pool added that they are revising enrolment projections and are working with the Deputy Provost and Deans on international enrolment. S. Tighe noted that McMaster is currently over corridor funding for domestic students in certain areas. The international space is competitive, and individuals have to be strategic in this market. S. Tighe added that with the geopolitics of the world and the competitive recruitment market, we need to be more diverse.

A member added that Faculties might have exceeded their target in the previous year and are now coming down to the target.

This item was for information.

8. Report from Graduate Council

S. Hranilovic shared an update on the task force on graduate student funding which was struck by the Provost. The task force consists of Associate Deans in all Faculties, the Deputy Provost, and graduate students from each Faculty. There have been broad consultations since February and the

consultations have been in written format through the website, round tables with graduate students, international students, Ph.D. students, Masters students, student organizations, and a town hall that was held in early June. The task force is now working on recommendations. S. Hranilovic added that graduate students play a huge role in McMaster's research enterprise and need to be supported.

1. Faculty of Social Sciences – Master of Public Policy

S. Hranilovic explained that at its meeting on June 28, 2023, Graduate Council approved the addition of a co-op option to the Master of Public Policy program and now recommends it to the Senate for approval. The purpose is to train prospective leaders for policy developments and the proposed change adds another stream and provides individuals with the opportunity to develop skills in a professional setting.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Senate, on recommendation of Graduate Council, approve the revision to the Master of Public Policy program, for inclusion in the 2023-2024 Graduate Calendar, as set out in the attached.

The motion was **Carried**.

2. Cotutelle Policy

At the same meeting, Graduate Council approved changes to the Cotutelle Policy and now recommends them to the Senate for approval. It was explained that the objective is to allow for further collaboration and to clarify and streamline the processes..

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Senate, on recommendation of Graduate Council, approve the revisions to the Cotutelle Policy as set out in the attached.

The motion was **Carried**.

The remainder of items were for information.

3. Faculty of Science – Psychology Ph.D. Program
4. SGS 202
5. Cotutelle Working Group
6. New Award

9. Report from the Faculty of Science

Maureen MacDonald, *Dean, Faculty of Science*, presented the report.

1. Amendments to the Faculty of Science By-Laws

M. MacDonald explained that the Faculty of Science Council and General Faculty Council have approved changes to the Faculty of Science By-Laws. The proposed amendments change committee compositions, add additional language to the elections section, and change the composition of the Faculty's Tenure and Promotion Committee. M. MacDonald noted that they are proposing ways to include teaching stream faculty in the Tenure and Promotion Committee and are expanding the composition of the Finance Committee to engage the McMaster community more broadly.

D. Farrar explained the approval process for by-law changes.

It was duly moved and seconded,

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

The motion was **Carried**.

10. Report from the Committee on Appointments

Joëlle Papillon, *Chair of the Senate Committee on Appointments*, presented the report.

1. Terms of Reference

On August 30, 2023, the Committee on Appointments approved the following recommendations and now recommends them to the Senate for approval.

- a. Revised Terms of Reference – Walter G. Booth Chair in Engineering Entrepreneurship and Innovation and the Class of 1962 Mechanical Engineering Chair in Eco-Entrepreneurship

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Senate, on recommendation from the Committee on Appointments, approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the revised terms of reference for the Walter G. Booth Chair in Engineering Entrepreneurship and Innovation, as circulated.

The motion was **Carried**.

It was duly moved and seconded,

that the Senate, on recommendation from the Committee on Appointments, approve, for recommendation to the Board of Governors, the revised terms of reference for the Class of 1962 Mechanical Engineering Chair in Eco-Entrepreneurship, as circulated.

The motion was **Carried**.

11. Presentation to the Senate

1. Overview of McMaster's Strategic Plan - Presentation

D. Farrar explained that the Strategic Plan is used as a guiding document for the University and that the plan will be updated, and individuals will be consulted over the next year. During consultations for the current Plan, a common theme was impact which is reflected in the University's vision. Other areas of interest included inclusive excellence and operational excellence. D. Farrar noted that last year they hired Barrington Walker, McMaster's new *Vice Provost, Equity and Inclusion*, who will help lead the efforts for inclusive excellence.

D. Farrar shared the results of 2022/23 for each of the priorities and explained the next steps.

12. Other Business

A member acknowledged and thanked the individual who raised the enquiry. The member explained that they are one of the Senators reviewing the Persona Non Grata Policy and that the individual raised a number of issues that involved the Policy and some that are outside the scope of the committee.