

November 21, 2014

Ms. Chancellor:

By the authority of the Senate of McMaster University, I have the honour to present

ROBERT McNUTT

Robert McNutt – better known in the McMaster family as Bob – is an exceptional scholar, a dedicated professor and in recent McMaster history, one of our most diversely experienced and most important administrators. His career has crossed disciplinary bounds repeatedly; provided timely and even visionary leadership; and steadied departments, faculties and University-wide enterprises that required skilled and nuanced guidance.

Educated in geology at the University of New Brunswick and then the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. McNutt arrived at McMaster University in 1965 as an assistant professor in what was then called the Department of Geology. He remained an active member of the department for three full decades, earning promotions to associate and then full professor before becoming the department chair in 1984.

As his administrative career was beginning, his research career was already fully developed. Dr. McNutt is a respected isotopic geochemist whose most recent research explores the use of Sr isotope as a tracer in water/rock systems, from surface water to brines. He began his research career in the field of isotopic geochemistry by investigating the Rb-Sr decay scheme. His research has also involved other radiogenic systems such as Sm-Nd, Re-Os and U-Pb. He is the author of more than 50 refereed journal articles and he served as the editor of the Geological Association of Canada's scholarly publication *Geoscience Canada* from 1978-1981. He is a member of the American Geophysical Union and the Geochemical Society and he is a fellow of the Geological Association of Canada. So respected is Dr. McNutt's work that his research leaves have taken him to internationally prominent institutions such as l'Université Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg, France and the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom.

Beginning with his service as chair of his department, Dr. McNutt built a distinguished and highly successful career in university administration. He was dean of the Faculty of Science from 1990-1995, then moved to Erindale College (now University of Toronto at Mississauga) where he served for seven years as principal before retiring in 2002. That retirement did not last long.

A professor emeritus at both McMaster and the University of Toronto, Dr. McNutt returned to McMaster University in 2004 as acting chair of the Department of Modern Languages & Linguistics, thus beginning a series of high-value, critically timed appointments that have had a significant positive impact on almost every corner of the McMaster campus. He played a key role in guiding the development of McMaster's Burlington campus, the Ron Joyce Centre, and chaired the Budget Model Task Force. He also served as acting dean of the Faculty of Humanities, then acting provost and vice-president (academic), and finally, acting dean of the DeGroot School of Business at a crucial time in that faculty's history.

Ms. Chancellor, Bob McNutt is a versatile leader whose dedication and skilled management have had a significant impact on our University's ability to perform at the highest level over the last two decades in particular. We are proud that he is already such an important member of the McMaster family and I present him to you now so that you may recognize his achievements and contributions by conferring upon him the degree Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.

Patrick Deane
President and Vice-Chancellor