

# Memorandum

**Secretariat**

845 Sherbrooke St. West, room 313

Montreal, QC, H3A 0G4

Tel: (514) 398-3948 | Fax: (514) 398-4758

**TO:** Board of Governors

**FROM:** Professor Suzanne Fortier, Principal and Vice-Chancellor

**SUBJECT:** Report of the Joint Senate Steering and Board Executive Committees Meeting

**DATE:** April 23, 2020

**DOCUMENT #:** GD19-52

**ACTION REQUIRED:**  INFORMATION  APPROVAL/DECISION

---

**ISSUE & EXPECTED OUTCOME** A report on the Joint Senate Steering and Board Executive Committees meeting is presented for information.

---

**BACKGROUND & RATIONALE** Article 6.3.9.1 of the Statutes of McGill University provides that the Senate and the Board of Governors shall hold an annual joint meeting in the fall term where the Principal, the Provost, the Deputy Provost, and the vice-principals, as appropriate, shall present for discussion, matters they consider relevant to the University's mission for the ensuing year.

On March 26, 2020, the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors and the Senate Steering Committee met to select a topic for the 2020 Joint Board-Senate meeting, which is planned for November 12, 2020. The Committees agreed to focus the general topic of the joint meeting on "Pandemic Planning and Preparedness: Local Impact of Global Health Crises."

A working group will be established to develop the details of the program and background materials for the joint meeting.

---

**ALIGNMENT WITH MISSION AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES** The topic of the meeting supports the University's mission and priorities.

---

**COMPLIANCE WITH UNIVERSITY POLICY** Section 6.3.9.1 of the University Statutes state:

*The Senate and Board of Governors shall hold an annual joint meeting in the fall term. At this meeting, the Principal, the Provost, the Deputy Provost, and the vice-principals, as appropriate, shall present for discussion matters they consider relevant to the University's mission for the ensuing year.*

---

**COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION/** There are no legislative or external regulations associated with this report.

---

---

**EXTERNAL  
REGULATIONS**

---

**RISK FACTORS**            There are no risk factors associated with this report.

---

**SUSTAINABILITY  
CONSIDERATIONS**        Sustainability factors will inform the development of the theme.

---

**IMPACT OF  
DECISION AND  
NEXT STEPS**            A working group will be struck to develop the program and prepare the  
background materials.  
The Joint Board-Senate meeting is planned for November 12, 2020.

---

**MOTION OR  
RESOLUTION  
FOR APPROVAL**        This item is presented for information.

---

**APPENDICES**            Appendix A: Report of the Joint Senate Steering and Board Executive  
Committees Meeting of March 26, 2020

---

**Report of the Joint Senate Steering and  
Board Executive Committees Meeting of March 26, 2020**

A joint meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors and the Senate Steering Committee took place on March 26, 2020 via videoconference to set the topic of the annual Joint Board-Senate meeting, scheduled for November 12, 2020. Based on the meeting, the topic selected is:

***Pandemic Planning and Preparedness: Local Impact of Global Health Crises***

This topic is timely in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Committees found value in exploring this topic in relation to the local impact it is having on McGill and the university sector. The Committees expressed interest to discuss the University's actions in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to reflect on any lessons learned from this experience.

The Committees discussed the format of the session, suggesting that it should include presentations and a panel discussion. It was also suggested that Senators and Governors be given the opportunity to engage in roundtable discussions on the topic.

A working group will be established to develop the program, design key questions that will guide the discussion and prepare the materials for the joint meeting.