

**Secretariat**

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The following items arise from the Information Technology (IT) Committee meeting of January 25, 2023. They are presented to the Board of Governors for information.

**I. FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS****1. Report on IT Project and Contract Approvals Valued Between \$1M and \$6M** [IT22-09]

The Committee received a Report on IT Project and Contract Approvals valued between \$1M and \$6M approved by the Principal or the Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance) during the reporting period of October 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022, pursuant to their respective authorities under the *Policy on Approval of Contracts and Designation of Signing Authority*.

It was reported that there was one IT contract approved by the Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance) in the reporting period valued at \$4,656,444 after tax and rebates.

**2. Reports on Cyber Security** [IT22-10]

The Committee received, for information, three reports related to cyber security: i) the Annual Report on Cyber Security for 2022, ii) a Cyber Security Status Update for the period from October 2022 to December 2022, and iii) a report on the recently completed Cyber Security Ransome Assessment.

The Annual Report outlined major cyber security incidents and related improvements delivered by McGill Information Technology Services (“ITS”) to IT security capabilities, and provided a broad overview of the University’s security strategy from 2018 to the present. The report highlighted the significant work achieved in terms of the IT security capabilities framework.

The Committee was also informed that a ransomware assessment of McGill’s central systems and workstations was performed by OKIOK in 2022, with a focus on the data center and crown jewels hosted and supported by central IT. The purpose of the assessment was to evaluate the University’s security posture against an attack and, specifically, to test the system’s ability to detect and recover should an attack occur.

**3. IT-related Legislative Requirements** [IT22-12]

The Committee received a presentation on new procedures and changes of reporting requirements to the Quebec government for IT-related investments and expenditures. Of note

are new reporting requirements on digital transformation plans (annually) and the strategies of digital transformation plans (beginning June 2023), and requirements for twice yearly reporting on information security. The Committee was also informed that there were several procedural changes to current reporting and tracking requirements, including the need to report on all information technology assets and the quality of these assets.

**4. Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Top Risk: Information Technology [IT22-14]**

The Committee received an ERM report on the top institutional risk of information technology. To assist the University in the mitigation of this and related risks, the Committee was informed that the University relies on the IT Services Strategic Plan, the IT Security Plan, and initiatives to finance projects aimed at improving IT systems and to increase Quebec government investments in IT.

**5. Update on the Implementation of the Action Plan related to the Report of the *Vérificateur général du Québec* (“VGQ”)**

The Committee received an update from the VP Administration and Finance on the implementation of the Action Plan related to the Report of the VGQ. The Committee was reminded that the VGQ required the submission of two (2) reports, one due at 18 months and the second at the end of implementation (or at three years). The Committee was informed that the University met with representatives of the VGQ in September 2022, in preparation of the status update on the implementation of the Action Plan, and that the University submitted the first of two reports to the VGQ on November 30, 2022. The VGQ acknowledged receipt and no further feedback on the submission has been received to date. The Committee noted the University’s good progress in addressing the recommendations.

**6. Report on IT Initiatives and Projects [IT22-11]**

The IT Committee receive a Report on IT Initiatives and Projects which included a status update of active initiatives and projects funded by proceeds of the \$140M bond as well as a financial summary of both planned and ongoing bond-funded IT projects and initiatives. It was informed that as of November 30, 2022, the cumulative expenditure of bond funds was \$103,774,883. The Committee also received an update on the IT network upgrade, the Disaster Recovery Plan, and the University Advancement (UA) Customer Relationship Management (CRM) upgrade.

**7. IT Unit Activity Report [IT22-13]**

The Committee received an update on key IT unit-related activities, which highlighted initiatives related to staffing and funding received from both federal governments for cyber security initiatives.

**END**  
**February 2023**