

# Memorandum

**Secretariat**

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**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 22, 2021

**DOCUMENT #:** GD20-53

**ACTION REQUIRED:**  INFORMATION  APPROVAL/DECISION

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

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**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 25, 2021, the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors and the Senate Steering Committee met to select a topic for the 2021 Joint Board-Senate meeting, which is planned for November 11, 2021. The Committees agreed to focus the general topic of the joint meeting on the theme of "The Execution of McGill's Mission in a Post-Pandemic World."

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

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

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**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.*

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

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**EXTERNAL  
REGULATIONS**

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

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

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**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 11, 2021.

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

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**APPENDICES**            Appendix A: Report of the Joint Senate Steering and Board Executive Committees Meeting of March 25, 2021

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**Report of the Joint Senate Steering and  
Board Executive Committees Meeting of March 25, 2021**

A joint meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors and the Senate Steering Committee took place on March 25, 2021 via the Zoom Conferencing Application to set the topic of the annual Joint Board-Senate meeting, scheduled for November 11, 2021. Based on the conversation at this meeting, the topic selected is:

***The Execution of McGill's Mission in a Post-Pandemic World***

The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically altered how we learn and work at McGill. As we transition back to in-person activities, the lessons learned from the pandemic will help guide us as we build a 'new and better normal.' The Committees found value in exploring the topic of post-pandemic transformation planning in relation to the impact the pandemic had on McGill and the university sector. The Committees expressed interest in focusing the discussion on the execution of McGill's Mission in a post-COVID world.

For example, this topic would allow members of Senate and the Board to explore how we can, in a post-COVID world:

- Improve the advancement of learning;
- Enhance the creative process that leads to new knowledge;
- Expand the dissemination of knowledge through educational programs;
- Expand the dissemination of knowledge arising from our research;
- Enhance our stature and impact in the international arena;
- Deepen and broaden the way that we serve society;
- Ensure that our mission is carried out responsibly and concretely advances our goals with respect to equity and inclusiveness.

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.