



Memorandum

Secretariat

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TO: Board of Governors

FROM: Professor Christopher Manfredi, Interim Principal and Vice-Chancellor

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

DATE: April 20, 2023

DOCUMENT #: GD22-66

ACTION REQUIRED: INFORMATION APPROVAL/DECISION

ISSUE 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 23, 2023, the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors and the Senate Steering Committee met to select a topic for the 2023 Joint Board-Senate meeting, which will be held on November 23, 2023. The Committees considered the following general theme: “Building on McGill’s Record of Excellence for the Third Century: Challenges and Opportunities Ahead.”

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

PRIOR CONSULTATION N/A

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 will take place on November 23, 2023.

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 23, 2023

**Report of the Joint Senate Steering and
Board Executive Committees Meeting of March 23, 2023**

A joint meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors and the Senate Steering Committee took place on March 23, 2023 in room 302 of the James Administration Building and via the Zoom conferencing application, to set the topic of the annual Joint Board-Senate meeting, scheduled for November 23, 2023. The meeting focused on the review of the following topic for the joint meeting:

Building on McGill's Record of Excellence for the Third Century: Challenges and Opportunities Ahead

This topic was proposed with the intention of creating an opportunity for the Board of Governors and Senate to provide input and inform the development of the University's priorities in the context of the University's new leadership under Incoming Principal Deep Saini. Furthermore, this theme would encourage participants to consider the factors that have contributed to McGill's reputation as a top University, and to explore ways to build on this reputation, while keeping in mind potential opportunities and challenges, and finding ways to best navigate through them.

The Committees noted that the proposed topic was broad in scope, and debated on the possibility of refining its focus. It was noted that the breadth of the topic would be appropriate in the context of McGill's new leadership, and that it should allow for the Board and Senate to engage in a visioning exercise for the University's future, which was deemed important by the Committees. The Committees agreed that it would be best to narrow the timeline, focusing on the next 30 years of McGill and/or envisioning "McGill 2050" rather than the University's third century overall. It was also suggested that the topic could be rephrased to emphasize the goal of expanding, for the long term, the University's reputation of excellence, in the context of developing an innovative vision for McGill's future.

Members proposed that the theme provide for the Board and Senate an opportunity to focus on more specific subjects or discussion questions, including:

- The importance of linking the visioning exercise to McGill's core values, as expressed in its Mission and Principles
- Identifying risks and possible constraints to the goal of bolstering McGill's standing and reputation
- Recognizing possible outcomes that McGill would like to avoid in the context of planning for its future
- Recognizing opportunities for new models of work and new models of teaching, and what these mean in the McGill context
- Examining the idea of the "McGill miracle", and how the University has achieved greatness with limited resources
- Discussing opportunities and challenges that impact McGill's ability to sustain McGill's record of excellence into the future.

The Committes agreed on the topic as the starting point for the joint meeting, with the understanding that it would be further refined based on the comments received during the meeting and with input from the Incoming Principal. A working group will be established to develop the program and materials, including the design of key questions that will guide the discussion.