

Preamble & Motions Regarding the Creation of a Board of Governors Best Practices Report

Preamble:

The McGill Board of Governors (BoG) is the highest legal governing body at McGill, recognized for its decision making ability by the province of Quebec. The BoG is committed to acting in a transparent and consultative manner in order to ensure that decisions are taken in the best interests of the community, as well as to foster discussion and debate that reflects the diversity of opinions both on and off the McGill campus. In order to best serve the University while also allowing for thoughtful debate, meetings of the BoG should run efficiently and without irregularity as much as possible.

The McGill student body has become increasingly engaged in BoG discussions over time, resulting in more requests to speak as well as some disturbances to regular meetings. Currently, the Nominating, Governance and Ethics Committee (NGE) of the Board of Governors is responsible in part for “good governance practices including rules of order and procedures and matters of ethics as they relate to governance,” as well as “the evaluation of governance functions and activities of the Board”. Considering this increased desire for engagement it is both within the jurisdiction of NGE and the best interest of the BoG to explore ways to increase BoG efficiency by further including community engagement in the decision making process. In addition, this mandate may be supported by research on university governance procedures & best practices at other institutions, and consultation within the University community.

Motion:

Be It Resolved, that the BoG approve a mandate for the Nominating, Governance and Ethics Committee to compile a report on "Board of Governors Best Practices," including literature and peer reviews, concerning, but not necessarily limited to, the following areas of governance:

- a) Meeting procedures;
- b) Consultation practices; and
- c) Board composition, nomination and selection.

Be It Further Resolved, that the NGE Committee aim to complete and present this report to the BoG by, at the latest, the last meeting of the 2016/2017 academic year, in order to allow time to adjust to any changes over the summer.

Submitted by,
Ben Ger, Governor