

Minutes of Open Session

Thursday, February 8, 2024 23-24 BR:03

Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Governors held on Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. at Room 301 of the James Administration Building, and via the Zoom Conferencing Application.

Present:

Ashkir, Alexandre	Hakim, Joseph	Prando, Diletta
Babinski, Bob	Headon, Fred	Rohrbach, Petra
Bertrand, Maryse (Chair)	Jabalpurwala, Inez	Rosenberg, Amanda
David, Gregory	Matuszewski, Pierre (Vice-Chair)	Saini, Deep (President)
Deckelbaum, Ariel	McCall MacBain, John	Sakhia, Samira
Desnoyers, Alan	Panda, Ram	Sigler, Jonathan
D'Iorio, Luciano	Paul, Maarika (Vice-Chair)	Tumulu, Satish Kamar
Gilbert, Lucy	Piggott, Adrienne	Zorychta, Edith
Greenwood, Celia		

Regrets: Arun Bajaj, Vaishnavi Parey.

Secretary-General: Edyta Rogowska, supported by Pietro Mastromatteo (Associate Director) and Emily Barriere (Governance Officer), Secretariat.

Resource Persons: Professor Christopher Manfredi, Provost and Vice-President (Academic).

Guests: Professor Martha Crago, Vice-President, Research and Innovation Professor Lynda McNeil, Associate Director, Office of Research Ethics and Compliance attended for agenda item 11 (Report from Senate); Ms, Sophie Leblanc, Chief Investment Officer attended for agenda item 12.2 “Report of the Committee on Sustainability and Social Responsibility” and Professor Sean Ferguson, Dean of the Schulich School of Music attended for item 13 “Presentation: Schulich School of Music”).

7. Chair’s Remarks

Governor Maryse Bertrand, Chair of the Board of Governors, welcomed members to the third regular meeting of the Board of Governors for the 2023 – 2024 governance year.

8. Consent Items

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, the Board of Governors approved the following as consent items:

8.1 *Minutes (Open Session) of December 14, 2023*

8.2 *Report of the Nominating, Governance and Ethics Committee* [GD23-38]

The following items were received by the Board of Governors, as consent items, for information:

8.3 Report of the Executive Committee

[GD23-39]

8.4 Annual Report Concerning the Investigation of Research Misconduct [GD23-40]

9. Business Arising from Open Session Minutes

There was none.

10. President’s Remarks (Continued)

Professor Deep Saini, President and Vice-Chancellor, began his remarks with an update about government relations, noting that he had met with Premier François Legault and Minister Pascale Déry earlier that week, accompanied by Vice-Chair Pierre Matuszewski, and had a discussion that touched upon all the issues of concern to McGill, including the tuition fees and the francisation initiative. He asserted that the University would continue to use any opportunity to continue dialogue with the provincial government to find viable, realistic solutions to these issues. The President noted that the federal government had recently announced that it would be imposing a cap on the number of new international undergraduate students it would accept into the country in an effort to address Canada’s housing challenges, with each province and territory allocated a portion of the total amount of study permits, based on its population. He asserted that the University was paying close attention to this issue and would report to the Board with any concerns that might arise. Finally, the President noted that McGill had received a visit the past week from Eric Girard, McGill Alumnus and Quebec Minister of Finance and Minister Responsible for Relations with English-Speaking Quebecers, who took place in an armchair discussion that the President hosted at the Desautels Faculty of Management. He added that the purpose of Minister Girard’s visit was to offer students an opportunity to gain insight into Quebec’s economic policies and the potential contributions that McGill graduates could make to economic growth in the province.

In terms of external relations, the President noted that he had attended a meeting of the U15 executive heads in Ottawa which included four key guests, notably David Cohen, the United States Ambassador to Canada, François-Philippe Champagne, Minister, Innovation, Science and Industry, Simon Kennedy, Deputy Minister, Innovation, Science and Economic Development, and Marc Miller, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. The President noted that he had also attended the 2024 Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos from January 15-19, where some 3,000 leaders from governments, business, civil society, academia, and the Arts convened under the theme “Rebuilding Trust.” He noted that it had been his first time representing McGill at the event, and that he had the opportunity to serve as moderator of a panel on Biodiversity, and to advance some of the University’s global engagement priorities.

Moving to community relations, the President noted that McGill had hosted its second annual International Holocaust Remembrance Day commemoration, which featured a testimony by Holocaust Survivor and McGill alumna Rae Gropper. He noted that the University had also hosted a commemoration in memory of the 7-year anniversary of the Quebec City Mosque Attack, and noted that McGill’s observance of those two remembrance days marked an important step in transforming the commitments made in the 2022 Initiative against Islamophobia and Antisemitism into meaningful action. He thanked the University’s Jewish

Student Affairs Liaison, Rachel Hatcher, and Muslim Student Affairs Liaison, Farah Chouayak, for helping to organize the two commemorations. The President informed members that, for the 8th year, McGill would be hosting a series of events in February for Black History Month, and that the keynote address during the opening event would be delivered by Professor Melanie Newton, a McGill alumna and Associate Professor of History at the University of Toronto. The President noted that the 9th edition of McGill24, the University's annual day of giving, would be held on March 13. He reminded members that the previous year had broken fundraising records, bringing in \$4.4M from 7,310 donations to hundreds of areas across the university, from student support to research. Finally, the President shared that McGill had raised a total of \$413,000 for Centraide of Greater Montreal, just a bit short of its goal of \$425,000, and thanked the fundraising committee led by Professor Martha Crago, Vice-President, Research and Innovation, and Professor Anja Geitmann, Interim Vice-President of Global Relations, for their work, as well as all Board members who had supported the campaign.

The President closed his remarks by offering kudos to five McGillians who had been appointed to the Order of Canada. He also noted that three McGill-led initiatives had made the Québec Science Top 10 list for 2023. He congratulated Governor Emerita Cynthia Price, who had been appointed by Pascale St-Onge, Minister of Canadian Heritage, as the next Chairperson of the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 in Halifax. Finally, he recognized Professor Angela Campbell, Associate Provost (Equity and Academic Policies) for her recent appointment as Chairperson of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Management Advisory Board, and independent group of external experts providing impartial advice to the RCMP based on its expertise, experience, and best judgement.

11. Report from Senate

[GD23-29]

Professor Deep Saini, President and Vice-Chancellor, presented the Senate Report from its meeting of January 17, 2024, noting that there were two items for approval.

11.1 Proposed Revisions to the Regulation on Conflict of Interest

The President presented a recommendation from Senate for the Board to approve proposed revisions to the Regulation on Conflict of Interest.

The President noted that proposed revisions were intended to render the existing reporting and review processes both clearer and more efficient. He added that this would be beneficial for all staff covered by the regulation and that the revisions aimed to eliminate unnecessary steps in approval processes within central administration.

The Board approved the following motion:

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of Senate, approved the proposed revisions to the Regulation on Conflict of Interest, as presented.

11.2 Proposed Revisions to the Policy on the Ethical Conduct of Research Involving Human Participants

The President, assisted by Professor Martha Crago, Vice-President, Research and Innovation, presented a recommendation from Senate for the Board to approve proposed revisions to the Policy on the Ethical Conduct of Research Involving Human Participants.

The President noted that the proposed revisions were intended to remove outdated processes, to move existing procedural content to a new procedural document, and to incorporate an updated appeals process compliant with the Tri-Council Policy Statement (TCPS) within the new Procedures.

The Board approved the following motion:

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of Senate, approved the proposed revisions to the Policy on the Ethical Conduct of Research Involving Human Participants, as presented.

12. Board Committee Reports: Part II

12.1 Report of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee (EDIC) [GD23-42]

Governor Inez Jabalpurwala, Co-Chair, EDIC presented the Report of EDIC for information arising from the Committee meeting of February 5, 2024.

Governor Jabalpurwala informed members that the Committee had received a presentation on the Systemic Racism Online Learning Module, which had been developed in consultation with student groups, notably racialized and Indigenous students, to fulfil Action Item #4 of McGill's Action Plan to Address Anti-Black Racism. She noted that the committee had also received a presentation on the University's implementation of recommendations outlined in the Initiative Against Islamophobia and Antisemitism Report of June 2022, as well as a draft report on McGill's Accessibility Strategy, an initiative seeking to strengthen and promote inclusion of persons with disabilities within the McGill community.

Governor Jabalpurwala concluded by noting that EDIC would be considering, later in 2024, the focus of its activities. She added that EDIC would also consider gaps in membership from relevant University units, with a view that the six existing subcommittees, of which four were currently active, might not adequately capture the full range of diversity in the McGill community. She stated that EDIC was committed to working closely with units as needed to connect groups across campus.

12.2 Report of the Committee on Sustainability and Social Responsibility [GD23-30]

Governor Alan Desnoyers, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Sustainability and Social Responsibility (CSSR), assisted by Ms. Sophie Leblanc, Chief Investment Officer, presented the Report of the CSSR arising from the Committee meeting of January 31, 2024.

12.2.1 Update on MIP Exposure to Fossil Fuel Holdings in the CU200TM

Governor Desnoyers informed members that the CSSR had received an update regarding a human calculation error in relation to the MIP's exposure to fossil fuel holdings in CU200. He shared that the Committee had been informed that, by error, data presented to the CSSR by the Office of Investments as part of the committee's review of the University's socially responsible investment commitments had indicated that direct investments in CU200 firms, as at December 31, 2022, constituted 0.5% of the MIP assets, while indirect investments represented 0.4%. Governor Desnoyers stated that, during a detailed review in January 2024, the Office of Investments had discovered that direct holdings on December 31, 2022, had in fact constituted 1% of the MIP holdings, with a further 0.7% in indirect holdings. He noted that the calculation error did not compromise the viability of McGill's goal to divest completely from all direct investments in the CU200 by the year 2025, as approved by the Board of Governors at its meeting of December 14, 2023.

12.2.2 Discussion on Procedure for Receiving Expressions of Concern

Governor Desnoyers informed members that the CSSR had discussed the current process for the consideration of expressions of concern as outlined in the CSSR Terms of Reference and the CSSR Procedures for Reviewing Expressions of Concern. He noted that, in preparation for this discussion, the Committee had reviewed the history of expressions of concern that had been considered at McGill since CAMSR was established in 1980, as well as data concerning similar practices at other universities. Governor Desnoyers stated that the Committee felt that the current process at McGill compared well with the processes in place at other universities and agreed that McGill's long history with regard to the consideration of expressions of concerns also supports that the current process worked well.

13. Presentation: Schulich School of Music

Professor Sean Ferguson, Dean of the Schulich School of Music, delivered a presentation highlighting activities, initiatives and developments within the Schulich School of Music.

Professor Ferguson shared data supporting the fact that the Schulich School of Music leads other comparable music programs in Canada, including rankings and research data. He noted that the program was globally preeminent, highlighting in particular that 78% of international students enrolled in Bachelor of Music programs in Quebec institutions were studying at McGill. He added that the Schulich School of Music was very locally anchored, having hosted a total of 661 public events during the 2022-23 academic year for more than 30,000 attendees.

Members thanked Professor Ferguson for his presentation and agreed that the Schulich School of Music was an exceptional faculty.

14. Other Business

There was none.

The meeting ended at 6:28 p.m. and was followed by an in-camera session.

15. In Camera Session

END.

SUMMARY OF MATTERS CONSIDERED IN CLOSED SESSION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS HELD ON FEBRUARY 8, 2024

1. Report of the Nominating, Governance and Ethics Committee

1.1 Appointment of the Chancellor of McGill University

The Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Nominating, Governance, and Ethics Committee, approved the appointment of Mr. Pierre Boivin as the twenty-first Chancellor of McGill University for a three-year term starting July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2027.

2. Report of the Finance and Infrastructure Committee

2.1 Strathcona Music Building, Pollack Hall Renovation

The Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Finance and Infrastructure Committee, approved to proceed with the construction phase for the revamp and upgrade of Pollack Hall.

2.2 Strathcona Music: Rehabilitation of Building Envelope (Lot 4) and Design Phases for Lots 5 and 6

The Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Finance and Infrastructure Committee, approved to proceed with the construction phase for the rehabilitation of the envelope of the Strathcona Music Building, and to complete the design phase for the building's window replacement and landscaping.