

The following report arises from the Senate meeting held on March 23, 2016. It contains items which are presented to the Board of Governors for consideration.

**I. FOR ACTION BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

**1. 471<sup>st</sup> Report of the Academic Policy Committee (APC) [D15-41]**

**1.1 Statement of Academic Freedom**

Senate reviewed the Academic Policy Committee's proposal for a Statement of Academic Freedom and recommended that it be approved by the Board of Governors.

In 2011, the McGill Association of University Teachers (MAUT) established an *ad hoc* Committee on Academic Freedom to develop a university statement on academic freedom. The committee had wide consultations with members of the McGill community, including MUNACA, MUNASA, SEIU, SSMU, and PGSS. The committee then developed a statement that was adopted by MAUT Council, and by the MAUT membership. The proposed Statement of Academic Freedom affirms and embraces the key principles found in the McGill University Mission Statement.

*Be it resolved that the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of Senate, approve the proposed Statement of Academic Freedom, as presented in Appendix A.*

**2. Report of the Senate Nominating Committee: [D15-42]**

**2.1 Appointments to the University Appeals Committee**

Senate approved recommendations to University committees, as recommended by the Senate Nominating Committee. Senate's recommendations concerning appointments to the University Appeals Committee are submitted for approval to the Board of Governors in accordance with university regulations.

*Be it resolved that the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of Senate, approve the appointments of Professors Robert Leckey (LAW) and Andrew Kirk (Electrical and Computer Engineering, ENGINEERING) as members of the University Appeals Committee, for three-year terms beginning September 1, 2016 and ending August 31, 2019.*

## II. FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### 1. **471<sup>st</sup> Report of the Academic Policy Committee (APC)** [D15-41]

Senate approved a BSc Joint Honours in Computer Science and Biology, revisions to the Regulations on Graduate Research Progress Tracking, the Regulations on Graduate Student Supervision, and the Admission of Former Students Policy.

The report also informed Senate of new student exchange partnerships as well as new courses and teaching programs, which APC approved in the name of Senate.

### 2. **Report of the Senate Nominating Committee** [D15-42]

Senate approved the report of the Senate Nominating Committee, which contained recommendations to fill vacancies on Committees Arising out of University Regulations.

### 3. **Proposed Revisions to the *University Student Assessment Policy*** [D15-43]

Senate approved revisions to the *University Student Assessment Policy* and recommended certain amendments that will be considered at the next Senate meeting. The policy was approved on February 16, 2011 and last amended on January 23, 2013. A number of sections of the policy were revised to ensure a fairer and clearer assessment environment for students.

### 4. **Annual Report on Enrolment and Strategic Enrolment Management** [D15-44]

Senate received this report for information. It provided an overview of the University's enrolment statistics for the Fall 2015 enrolment cycle and of the implementation of the University's strategic enrolment management plan.

### 5. **Annual Report on Scholarships and Student Aid** [D15-45]

Senate received a report on Scholarship and Student Aid, which was submitted to Senate in accordance with the terms of reference of the Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs.

### 6. **Annual Report from Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies** [D15-46]

Senate received this report, which provides an overview of graduate and postdoctoral studies at McGill, for information.

### 7. **McGill University Staffing Report** [D15-47]

Senate received the 2014-2015 University Staffing Report for information. The report was previously presented to the Human Resources Committee on January 26, 2016, and to the Board of Governors on February 11, 2016. It provides official headcounts and one

and five year changes for all categories of employees at the University, including academics and administrative and support staff.

**8. Report from the Board of Governors to Senate** [D15-48]

Senate received this report for information. It provided a summary of the February 11, 2016 Board of Governors meeting as well as the January 11 and February 26, 2016 electronic votes of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors.

**9. Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee** [D15-49]

Senate received the report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee in confidential session.

**END**  
**April 2016**

## **Statement of Academic Freedom**

September 9, 2015 [revised February 25, 2016]

Academic freedom is central to McGill University's mission of advancing learning through teaching, scholarship and service to society.

The scholarly members of the university have the freedom to pursue research and artistic creation and to disseminate their results, without being constrained by political or disciplinary orthodoxies, monetary incentives or punitive measures as a result of their academic pursuits. They may exercise this freedom in the service of both the university and the wider society. When scholarly members of the university participate in public forums and debates, they should represent their views as their own.

The exercise of academic freedom requires collegial governance with the full participation of scholarly members. They retain the right of free expression, including the freedom to criticize one another, university policies and administration.

The university and its officers have a duty to protect the academic freedom of its scholarly community, both individually and collectively, from infringement and undue external influence as well as to maintain the university's institutional autonomy.