



Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Governors held on Thursday, December 13, 2012 in room 506 of the James Administration Building, 845 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal.

PRESENT:

Boychuk, Michael
 Brulé-Champagne, Eric
 Cobbett, Stuart (*Chair*)
 Coughlin, Peter
 Critchley, Ronald
 de Grandpré, Lili, (*Vice-Chair*)
 Fazel, Kathy
 Flood Consedine, Morna
 Gagnier, Daniel
 Généreux, Claude
 Harpp, David Noble
 Hastings, Kenneth
 Halperin, Stephen

Kalant, David
 Minzberg, Samuel
 Mooney, Jonathan
 Munroe-Blum, Heather
 Pekeles, Gary
 Price, Cynthia
 Raz, Amir
 Redel, Josh
 Steinberg, H. Arnold
 (*Chancellor*)
 Turcotte, Martine (by phone)
 Vroom, Ann

Resource Persons
 Aberman, Susan
 Di Grappa, Michael
 Marcil, Olivier
 Masi, Anthony C.

Strople, Stephen (Secretary-General)
 Edyta Rogowska (Governance Officer)

Guests: Ian Soutar, Chair, Investment Committee.

REGRETS: Nadia Hourri, Thierry Vandal.

OPEN SESSION

The Chair reconvened the meeting in Open Session and welcomed to the meeting a small group of reporters.

8. Chair’s Remarks and Announcements

The Chair stated that tape, video or other means of recording sound or images were not permitted prior to, during or after a Board meeting.

The Chair reported on the Board’s approval of a resolution concerning the provincial government’s funding cuts to universities. The Chair stated that the following resolution had been unanimously approved by the Board during the Closed session of the meeting:

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, it was resolved that the Board of Governors of McGill University deploras the cuts in provincial funding to universities and research granting councils announced by the Minister on December 6 as both excessive and injurious to the core mission of research universities in Quebec, and injurious to Quebec society as a whole , and it insists that the proposed retroactive cuts be withdrawn and that the commitments to university funding that were in place at the time the Board approved the University’s 2012-13 budget, be fully restored.

9. Approval of the Meeting Minutes (open session) of September 27, 2012

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, the minutes from a meeting held on September 27, 2012, were approved.

10. Principal's Remarks (Continued)

The Principal spoke about challenges McGill and other Quebec universities were facing as a result of the provincial government's plan to cut \$124 million of funding from post-secondary institutions. She added that these challenges were intensified by the Quebec government's plan to cut funding to Fonds de recherche du Québec. She spoke about the injurious impact of funding cuts on Universities and on the future of Quebec society in general.

The Principal reported on Quartier de l'Innovation (QI) Ambassadors Event, which was held on December 10 in order to further define the role of ambassadors in the QI project. She reiterated that the ambassadors, who were leaders from the Montreal business, social and cultural communities, would play a significant role in promoting the QI project.

The Principal announced that she had sent her response to Dean Manfredi's Report on the Open Forum on Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly to the community and expressed her satisfaction with the actions that were being taken to implement the reports three recommendations. She added that work was being done to adapt a protocol regarding demonstrations, protests, and occupations on McGill University campuses, a draft of which had been sent to the McGill community for comment and suggestions. She stated that the protocol would be presented to Senate and the Board of Governors once it was finalized in the New Year.

The Principal described some notable achievements of the McGill community over the last months. Namely, she commented on the success of the 2012 McGill Centraide Campaign and announced McGill's recognition by the search firm Waterstone Human Capital as having one of Canada's 10 Most Admired Corporate Cultures of 2012. She then announced that Ms. Sarah McCuaig, an Immunology student and team captain of the McGill track and cross-country team, was the 134th McGillian to be chosen for the Rhodes scholarship. Lastly, the Principal expressed her congratulations to Faculty of Medicine's Dr. Brenda Milner on her induction into the Canadian Science and Engineering Hall of Fame and congratulated Dr. Lesley Fellows and her team at the Montreal Neurological Institute for securing a major HIV research grant.

In response to a question on the consultation process for the drafting a protocol regarding demonstrations, protests, and occupations on McGill's campuses and the protocol's impact on the student code of conduct, the Principal stated that there had been considerable community-wide consultation in drafting the protocol. She stated that the administration received some comments which it was presently addressing and noted that input was still being accepted from any member of the McGill community who wished to offer it.

**11. Report of the Finance Committee Part II:
Budget Planning 2013-14 Report I**

[GD12-20]

The Provost delivered the first of three budget planning reports for FY2014. He stated that for the current fiscal year, the University had initially projected a deficit of \$7 million, which was now adjusted to \$12M. The Provost explained that this adjustment resulted entirely from the government's clawback of tuition increases, adding that it would also impact future budgets. The Provost stated that all Quebec universities were similarly affected by the tuition clawback.

The Provost updated members on planning for the FY2014 budget. He reported that the budget would be based on McGill's strategic priorities, in line with the University's Academic Plan. The Provost said that the current fiscal environment contained uncertainty related to revenues (coming from tuition fees) and expenses (related to compensation pressures and one-time-only costs), which were further intensified by the uncertainty of the recent provincial budget. The Provost explained that the University's preliminary budget assumptions projected a \$12-14 million deficit for FY2014 and that he was consulting with the Deans and other members of the senior administration on possible ways to reduce expenses.

The Provost described the FY2014 preliminary expense assumptions, noting that the University was facing pressure to sustain excellence with resource constraints that called for the need to diversify revenue streams and reduce liabilities. He concluded by saying that the current economic challenges posed a number of obstacles that would need to be addressed appropriately in order to maintain the University's commitment to carry out its mission in teaching and learning.

The Board discussed current funding challenges and expressed concern at the University's ability to operate in support of its mission in the current financial environment. Members were told that the University was in the process of evaluating potential scenarios resulting from the provincial government's retroactive funding cuts and would have a better understanding of their potential impact on university operations in the near future.

12. Report from Senate

[GD12-24]

The Principal presented the Report from Senate, arising from its meeting of December 5, 2012. She stated that the report contained three recommendations for approval. She reported that Senate's recommendation concerning the Regulations Relating to Maternity, Paternal and Extended Parental Leave for Members of the Academic Staff was deferred to a future meeting.

12.1 Change of Name for the Centre on Language, Mind and Brain

In response to a question concerning costs involved in name changes concerning university centres, the Principal responded that these types of costs were usually minimal.

On a motion duly proposed and seconded, the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of Senate, approved the proposed name change for the Centre for Research on Language, Mind and Brain (CRLMB) / Centre de recherche sur le langage, le mental et le cerveau (CRLMC) to Centre for Research on Brain, Language and Music (CRBLM) / Centre de recherche sur le cerveau, le langage et la musique (CRCLM).

12.2 Revisions to McGill’s Policy on the Ethical Conduct of Research Involving Human Subjects

The Principal presented Senate’s recommendation to approve revisions to McGill’s Policy on the Ethical Conduct of Research Involving Human Subjects.

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

13. Report of Joint Board-Senate meeting November 27, 2012

[GD12-26]

The Chancellor presented the Report of the Joint Board-Senate meeting of November 27, indicating that the meeting’s theme of Universal Design led to stimulating exchanges on the ways in which McGill could achieve best practices linked to universal design in the area of teaching and student life and learning.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.