

Senate report for Tuesday Sept. 19, 2017

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All documents are available at: <https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/node/1730/>

SECTION I

Principal Fortier **welcomed** all to the first senate meeting of the 2017-2018 governance year.

Memorial tributes were presented by Principal Fortier for Chancellor Emerita Gretta Chambers, by Dean Eidelman (Faculty of Medicine) for Professor Zafer Ali-Khan and Dean Ravenscroft (Faculty of Music) for Professor Eleanor Stubley. Deep felt condolences were sent to family and friends.

Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting (May 15, 2017), the report of the Steering committee and the agenda.

1. **Business Arising:** There was no business arising.

2. Principal's Remarks

i. Orientation week

Principal Fortier thanked those that made this year's Orientation week a great success. Enrollment figures will be finalized in Feb, but a 2% increase in student numbers are projected, of which 58% are female. The number of International students has increased (US, China, France, India, Saudi Arabia). Half of our students are from Quebec with an additional approx. 30% from Canada (outside QC).

ii. Rankings

McGill ranked 45th in the Times Higher Education Ranking, fell slightly from 63 to 67th place in the Academic Ranking of World Universities (Shanghai ranking) and was the top Canadian University in the Nature Index for Innovation ranking (103 place).

iii. Government Relations

The Principal spoke about the Naylor Report that came out last April. This comprehensive report stressed the need to increase investment in fundamental science and also included recommendations on governance, including co-ordination between funding agencies. The Provincial government is investing \$23 million in strategies to combat sexual violence on campuses. McGill's Policy against Sexual Violence (<https://www.mcgill.ca/secretariat/files/secretariat/>

policy_against_sexual_violence.pdf) was adopted last year. Principal Fortier is leading a working group to look at a new Provincial funding formula for Universities. In addition to the funding policy, the Provincial Government is reassessing the student categories, Clarder codes and hoping to put in place initiatives to attract more International students.

iv. External Relations

Prime Minister Trudeau and the Minister of Science Kristy Duncan visited campus. Facebook is funding a new Artificial Intelligence Research Lab (FAIR Montreal) to be headed by Professor Joelle Pineau (School of Computer Science). The Promenade Fleuve-Montagne that runs through McGill's downtown campus was opened.

v. Community Relations

Homecoming will happen on the weekend of Oct 12-14. On Thursday Oct 12, the Beattie Lecture: Charles Taylor – the Challenge of Regressive Democracy (5:30 pm in the Salle Pollack Hall). On Oct 11-13, the Campus Planning Initiative will show highlight plans for the campuses and the Royal Victoria Hospital site (downtown, lower campus, 11 am-4 pm). Also, the kick off for the 2017 Centraide (United Way) campaign has begun.

vi. Kudos

Among many congratulations, the following were recognized:

- Kyle Elliott (NRS) was selected to attend the Young Scientists cohort at the World Economic Forum.

SECTION II PART A: Questions and motions by members

There were no questions or motions posted by Senate members this meeting.

SECTION II PART B: Motions and Reports from University Government

1. Report of the Senate Nominating Committee: *Professor Manfredi* (Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic))

From our Faculty, the following were approved:

- Prof. Petra Rohrbach: Academic Policy Committee
- Prof. Jim Fyles: University Appeals Committee

2. Appointment of Assessors under the Policy of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law: *Professor Angela Campbell* (Associate Provost (Equity and Academic Policies))

Three new assessors were approved, including Prof. Petra Rohrbach.

3. Report of the Provost's Task Force on Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Education:
Professor Christopher Manfredi (Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic))

This document (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/6_d17-03_task-force.pdf) outlines actions (short-, medium- and long-term) to encourage and provide support for Indigenous students and Faculty at McGill University.

4. Revisions to the Academic Policies: *Professor Angela Campbell* (Associate Provost (Policies, Procedure & Equity))

Three areas were covered: revisions to regulations regarding employment of contract academic staff (CAS) (course lecturers and instructors removed as they are now in a separate category), regulations relating to visiting academic appointments (Visiting Fellow (post-graduate), Visiting Professor, Visiting Scientist;) and regulations on retirement of academic staff.

5. Progress Report on Sustainability Initiatives at McGill: *Professor Christopher Manfredi* (Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic))

This report summarized the activities in the last year to highlight progress on sustainability initiatives. One additional initiative that was brought up in discussion is that travel payments made with the BMO Virtual Card allows rebates for carbon offsets.

6. Annual Report on the Policy of Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law: *Professor Angela Campbell* (Associate Provost (Equity and Academic Policies))

In 2016-2017, the number of harassment cases increased but the number of sexual harassment cases decreased. Most of these cases did not proceed past the enquiry stage, but 13 cases (31%) did proceed to an investigation and formal resolution. As mentioned above, the number of assessors will increase from 9 to 12.

7. Annual Report of the Committee on Student Services: *Professor Ollivier Dyens* (*Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning)*)

This report highlights the achievements of the past year of the eight Student Services boards: Career Placement Services, Campus Life and Engagement, Counselling Services, Health Services, International Student Services, McGill Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, Mental Health Services and Scholarships and Student Aid. One initiative that was highlighted was Stepped Care Model (Mental Health and Counselling Services). In this model, students seeking support are assigned to a Client Care Clinician who will assess the situation and determine the best route to follow. Macdonald needs were also highlighted. The Mac Matters Workgroup is working on initiatives to better provide services at the Macdonald campus (Martine Gauthier).

8. Annual Report of the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity: *Professor Angela Campbell* (Associate Provost (Equity and Academic Policies))

There are 6 equity subcommittees under the JBSCE: Subcommittee on Women, Subcommittee on Persons with Disabilities, Subcommittee on Family Care, Subcommittee on First Peoples, Subcommittee on Racialized and Ethnic Persons and the Subcommittee on Queer People. Reports from these groups were presented.

9. Confidential Session

Adjournment

Respectively Submitted,

Jacqueline C. Bede