From: Allibrarians [mailto:ALLIBRARIANS@LISTS.MCGILL.CA] On Behalf Of Marc Richard  
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2006 10:53 AM  
To: ALLIBRARIANS@LISTS.MCGILL.CA  
Subject: Senate Meeting Report -- 2006-10-11

Colleagues,

The following are highlights of the University Senate meeting held Wednesday, October 11, 2006.

As part of the Chair's Remarks, Principal Munroe-Blum indicated that in the new 2006 edition of the Times Higher Education Supplement World Rankings, McGill was the only Canadian university among the top 25 institutions. McGill moved from 24th place last year up to 21st this year. Although several Canadian universities are not participating voluntarily in this year's Macleans ranking, which is due to come out shortly, McGill is continuing to do so because the university wants to be publicly accountable. The non-participating universities will still be included in the Macleans ranking because the data for most of the ranking catagories is publicly available. The Principal also noted that the G10 group of Canadian universities has recently been expanded into the G13 through the addition of Dalhousie, Ottawa and Calgary to the group.

During the period for questions, Senators Brian Lewis and Phil Oxhorn indicated that a number of Arts units (such as CDAS, located at 3715 Peel, and the Quebec Studies Program, located in New Chancellor Day Hall) were informed without prior consultation that they would be relocated; they asked if this lack of consultation was simply a regretable lapse in the collegial approach under which McGill is supposed to operate or whether it reflected a different approach. Provost Masi responded that the University's space needs have been discussed widely for the past ten years, and that he does not subscribe to the "top-down, consultation-free approach to decision-making" mentioned in the question. The Provost indicated that the Administration allocates square footage to the Faculties, and that it is the deans who then decide how their allocated space is to be used. Plans for a new Arts building have been in place for a long time, but no government or private funding for it has yet materialized. The University has recently purchased a building on Durocher street, and this is resulting in a domino-like series of space reallocations as the University transfers some of its activities off the main campus area.

Senator Waugh then inquired about the ancillary lesson fees which music students are being charged for private lessons on their principal instrument. Given that such lessons are an essential part of the studies for a music degree, Senator Waugh asked how such fees can be designated as being "ancillary." Dean MacLean of Music responded that the fees are necessary because of underfunding by the Quebec government, and that under the provisions of Quebec law the University has no choice but to call them ancillary. Provost Masi added that many programs at McGill which are supplemented by such alternative funding would have to be shut down if they had to be operated strictly on the basis of the provincial funding. A financial aid module is being developed for Banner, so that the equations used to allocate financial aid to students can better take into account both cost factors and resource factors.

V.-P. Yalovsky presented to Senate the 2005-2006 Financial Report to the Board of Governors (D06-12). The University is expected to close the year, on May 31, 2007, with a deficit on the order of $17 million and an accumulated deficit projected at $41 million. There have been a number of positive announcements from Quebec over the summer, notably a commitment by the Ministère de l'éducation, sports et loisirs (MELS) to reinvest in education by increasing the base budget of universities. Quebec will also bring in a new funding formula (the "grille" used to calculate how much funding each university gets), and will accelerate the elimination of the "ajustement McGill" (an amount of money subtracted each year by MELS from the amount McGill is entitled to get under the funding formula, on the grounds that McGill has greater private sources of funding than the other Quebec universities do).

Deputy Provost Mendelson then presented the draft report to Senate of "Focus on Students: Principal's Task Force on Student Life and Learning at McGill" (D06-13). The report was discussed by Senate in a committee of the whole. A final version of the report is expected by December, and will then be followed by the University Administration's response.

Other Meeting Items:

\*\*\* 383nd Report of the Academic Policy and Planning Committee to Senate (D06-11). Received.

\*\*\* Report of the Senate Nominating Committee (D06-14). Senate approved the Nominating Committee's recommended appointments to a large number of committees, notably several representatives of Senate on Statutory Selection Committees. Professor David Ronis has been appointed to the Senate Committee on Libraries as a faculty member, and Ms. Mary Lourenco of the Law Library has been appointed to the same committee as a representative of the non-academic library staff.

\*\*\* Report to Senate from the Board of Governors (D06-10). On the recommendation of Senate, which adopted them at its meeting of May 24, 2006, the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors approved the revised Tenure Regulations for Full-Time Librarian Staff.

Please get in touch with us if you would like to see copies of any of these Senate documents or have any questions concerning any of the Senate discussions.

The next Senate meeting is the Joint Senate-Board meeting on October 30, 2006

Regards,

Your Library Senate Reps,

Jim Henderson

John Hobbins

Marc Richard