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Subject: Senate Meeting Report, 2013-04-17
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Senate Meeting Report, 2013-04-17

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on Wednesday, April 17, 2013.

Principal Munroe-Blum opened Senate by introducing Principal-Designate Suzanne Fortier, who attended the first part of the meeting as a guest. Dr. Fortier, who will take office on September 5, thanked the McGill community for the warm welcome she has received.

Dean Allison presented a resolution on the death of Timothy Head, and Dean Madramootoo presented a resolution on the death of Nayana N. Barthakur. Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/minutes_march_20_2013.pdf), the report of the Steering Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_8.pdf) and the agenda (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/agenda_-_april.pdf).

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Munroe-Blum commented on the recent federal budget. She noted that the federal government has opened the door to reviewing the funding of the indirect costs of research, and that another welcome piece of news from Ottawa is the creation of an international education strategy. On the provincial scene, the Quebec government has recently announced that its supposedly confirmed investments in higher education were again being modified: tuition fees this year will rise by only 2.6% rather than by 3%. The Administration is preparing to make representation at the five forthcoming *chantiers* on higher education, notably at the one that will address the funding formula. Regarding the recently announced or threatened withdrawal of certain universities from CREPUQ, the Principal indicated that these developments were not a surprise. She noted that the formation of groups such as the U15 were accompanied by tensions within more global associations like CREPUQ. CREPUQ's board is recommending a day of reflection on this subject.

There being no formal written questions on today's agenda, the next two items of business were presentations by Provost Masi on the implementation of ASAP 2102 (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d12-55_asap_update.pdf) and on the University budget for fiscal year 2014 (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d12-56_budget_presentation_for_senate_final_distribution.pdf). In the discussion period which followed, Senator Zorychta asked about the differences between the staffing numbers in the budget presentation and those in the staffing report scheduled for discussion later in the meeting. Provost Masi answered that the numbers in the staffing report reflect the situation which existed in 2012.

Senator Galaty referred to the possible closure of libraries which has been evoked in recent days. He asked what form of consultation is being conducted on this subject and what form of decision-making was involved, and also asked who has the dossier in hand. Provost Masi responded that the Dean of Libraries has the dossier in hand. The Provost noted that the Libraries have been protected from budget cuts for the past twelve years, but that this year it has not been possible to continue this protection. He added that some restructuring of the Libraries would have taken place anyway, as was also the case recently in the Faculty of Arts. The University Administration is not telling the Dean of Libraries how to meet the required cuts. Dean Cook added that as much input as possible is being gathered: changes need to be made, and we need to hear from as many people as we can. She indicated that it is important to provide librarians and their services when they are needed, to provide access to resources, and to provide study space for students. She also noted that the current information environment is very different from the print-based one.

Senator Galaty wondered who the Libraries regarded to be their constituency, arguing that the answer should be "all of us." Dean Eidelman mentioned the fact that a consultation process on the future of the Life Sciences Library had begun within the faculties of Medicine and Dentistry; it will be led by Richard Cruess, the former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and Daniel Boyer, the Head Librarian of the Nahum Gelber Law Library. Dean Eidelman remarked that the role of libraries has changed dramatically in the biomedical field, which does not use books anymore but which has a desperate need for student study space. Dean Cook added that the Library, which is now referred to in the singular, operates as a system and as a whole, and that the entire McGill community is indeed its constituency.

Senator Riches noted that the Faculty of Education had learned from the CBC in the last few days that the Education Library might be closed. She asked if this was true, and if so why no mention had been made of this and no consultation undertaken. Dean Cook responded that no final decision has been made, and that any discussions so far have been very preliminary. There will indeed be consultations; later in the afternoon, the Faculty of Education listserv will send out an announcement to this effect. The form of the input will be determined in consultation with the Dean of Education when she returns next week.

Senator Dinel asked about the possible classroom and teaching/learning impacts of the budget cuts. Provost Masi responded that it will be virtually impossible to keep the Libraries open on a 24-hour basis, except during the exam period. The Administration wants to protect McGill's core mission and the quality of McGill's education programs. Once the Administration knows the level of uptake that was reached on voluntary departures, it will try to smooth out the impacts of those departures in order to make them as small as possible; however, the Provost also underlined the draconian nature of the cuts imposed by the government. Senator Dinel expressed the hope that the Administration would take into account the financial contributions made to the Libraries by SSMU and by the Education Undergraduate Society. Provost Masi commented that the use of Library space is a contentious subject. He noted that a book which doesn't circulate costs ten times more to keep on the shelf than to put into storage, but added that this does not mean that we don't need librarians or their services.

Senator Bernard urged those who had opposed the previous government's proposed tuition fee increase to rethink their position. Senator Ridel urged deans to consult at the local level as McGill gets into the process of making cuts and changes, and asked if students had been asked what they thought about Library cuts. Dean Cook responded that the Library does a lot of assessment of its services, and assured Senate that it would do its best to seek all the input it could. Provost Masi stated that the Library is a core part of the University's mission and that it is not peripheral, but once again drew attention to the fact that, for the first time in twelve years, cuts to the Library could not be avoided.

The next agenda item was a set of proposed revisions to the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d12-57_revisions_to_the_code_of_student_conduct.pdf). These revisions were adopted. This item was followed by the McGill University Staffing Report for 2012 (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d12-58_mcgill_university_staffing_report_2011-12.pdf), which was presented jointly by Provost Masi and V.-P. Di Grappa.

Senate next approved the appointment of several assessors under the Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d12-59_approval_of_assessors__2013.pdf). During the discussion of this item, Senator Dinel inquired about the qualifications which are required for these positions and about the training which appointees receive. Associate Provost White responded that individuals who serve as assessors should be fair and impartial, and that they should be able to listen to both sides without getting flustered. As regards training, new assessors receive initial training right away; this is followed by repeated ongoing training throughout the year. This ongoing

training includes topic-specific sessions, as well as the review of case studies from which identifying information has been removed. Professor White added that General Counsel Line Thibault gives assessors training on specific legal aspects of their duties. Senator Bouchard asked if eight assessors is an adequate number. Professor White answered that this question is currently being examined by a working group, and commented that a larger number may indeed be desirable.

Senate approved the 446th report of the Academic Policy Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d12-60_446th_apc_report.pdf) and the Senate Nominating Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d12-61_nominating_report.pdf). The latter included the appointment to the Senate Committee on Libraries of one librarian member (Anaïs Salamon) and two faculty members (David Ronis and Kenneth Borris); the appointment of Daniel Boyer as Alternate Chair of the University Tenure Committee for the University Libraries; and the appointment of Angella Lambrou to the Statutory Selection Committee slate for the University Libraries. It also included the approval of the terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Composition of Senate, for which membership nominations will be presented at the May meeting of Senate.

Deputy Provost Mendelson next presented the annual report on Strategic Enrolment Management (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d12-62_sem_plan_implementation.pdf). Owing to the late hour, Senate agreed to postpone until next month the scheduled presentation of a progress report on Quartier de l'Innovation (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d12-63_update_on_quartier_innovation.pdf). The final item of business was the approval of revised term dates for student Senators (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d12-64_motion_to_change_student_senators_start_dates.pdf).

The next Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2013. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,
Your librarian Senate reps,
Daniel Boyer
Maya Kucij
Marc Richard