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Subject: Senate Meeting Report, 2013-09-18
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Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on Wednesday, September 18, 2013.

Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting (not yet posted), the report of the Steering Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/2._report_of_the_senate_steering_committee.pdf) and the agenda (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/1._agenda_-_september_2013.pdf).

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Fortier thanked the members of the McGill community for the warm welcome she has received. She wants and needs to hear about the aspirations and ideas of the community, so that she can develop her priorities. Her immediate priorities are: to be a full member of the McGill community (to which end she is having a large number of meetings across the University); to gain the trust and respect of the community; to continue to build on McGill's strengths; and to build links and establish good working relationships with government (both in Quebec City and Ottawa) and with her colleagues in other universities.

The Principal thanked everyone who had participated in Orientation Week; it was successful, but some events connected with it were not entirely positive and will need to be worked on. The Principal alluded to recent incidents at the frosh events of other Canadian universities and stressed the importance of respect. Regarding the proposed charter of Quebec values, Principal Fortier noted that yesterday McGill University and the McGill academic health network had each released a statement reaffirming our commitment to the principles of diversity and inclusiveness.

On the subject of government relations, the Principal provided an update on the work of the three *chantiers de travail* on higher education in Quebec in which McGill is participating; the chairs of the *chantier* on funding and of the two *chantiers* on governance have been met. McGill is studying the Porter-Bissonnette report on university governance; the government is expected to table its framework act on the subject in the fall.

Principal Fortier thanked Provost Masi for serving as Acting Principal during the summer. The Provost described the meetings he held during this time with various employee groups regarding the efforts being made to meet the \$38 million in unanticipated budget cuts imposed by the government, and outlined the measures -- such as spending reductions, salary freezes, and voluntary retirements -- which had been implemented for that purpose.

In the subsequent discussion period, Senator Shea asked in what manner the Administration would engage the provincial government on the subject of its proposed charter of values to ensure the protection of staff and student rights at McGill. Principal Fortier referred to the two statements which were issued on this subject yesterday, but added that the government had not yet tabled the actual text of its legislative project, so matters at this point are still at an early consultation stage; however, the issue is being tracked carefully. On a different topic, Senator Pেকেles urged the Principal to begin thinking soon about ways to reconfigure Senate proceedings so that there can be more meaningful discussion of issues and greater involvement in the formulation of policy. Principal Fortier agreed that it is important for issues to be debated fully in Senate.

Under the agenda point for formal questions, Senator Bouchard posed a question about the MUHC transition to the Glen Campus (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/pgss_-_muhc_transition_to_the_glen_campus.pdf). Dean Eidelman responded that one of the goals of the

move is to bring researchers and clinicians closer together; facilities are currently being built, equipment is being purchased, and planning is underway for the transition and relocation. The moves will be staged, with an estimated one-to-two-month gap between the end of activities in the old locations and their resumption in the new ones; experiments involving animals, however, may experience a longer delay. Most individuals will be moving into superior facilities, with more space and a better working environment. Senator Bouchard posed a supplemental question on whether there would be a physical library branch at the new facility. Dean Cook responded that there will indeed be a library space at the Glen campus; the patient resource centre and the medical library will share the same space. Access will remain as it always has been for residents and graduate students: as McGill students, they will have access to McGill Library print and electronic materials and to McGill librarians for their research questions; as hospital staff, they will have access to the hospital library resources and space and to the hospital librarians for clinical questions (and research questions if requested).

The next agenda item was a PowerPoint presentation (not yet posted) by V.-P. Weinstein on Campaign McGill (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/3._d13-01_senate_memo_dar_sept_2013.pdf). In the discussion period which followed, Senator Richard commented that, as philanthropy grows more important in the future, McGill should remain vigilant to avoid situations such as were seen at the Balsillie School of International Affairs, where private donations came with strings attached that resulted in potential corporate involvement in university governance. V.-P. Weinstein responded that McGill is very careful about this issue, adding that the University has actually turned down a number of donation proposals which would have crossed this line.

Professor Fuks next presented the 2012-2013 Annual Report Concerning the Investigation of Research Misconduct (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/4._d13-02_research_misconduct_with_appendix_0.pdf). In response to a question by Senator Mooney regarding how the number of cases at McGill compares with those at other Canadian universities, Professor Fuks responded that no adequate Canadian figures exist; there is Tri-Council interest in this subject, however, and it is hoped that comparative data will be available in the future.

Associate Provost White moved a set of amendments to the Regulations Relating to the Employment of Librarian Staff, which Senate approved (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/5._d13-03_senate_memo_-_librarians_-_revised_with_appendix.pdf). Most of these amendments involved synchronizing the dates given for certain governance processes in the librarian regulations with the dates given for the same processes in the updated faculty regulations.

Associate Provost White also presented 2012-2013 Annual Report of the Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/6._d13-04_harass_report_12-13_memo_with_appendix.pdf). Senator Mooney, noting that the assessors are trained by McGill's own General Counsel, asked if this creates the possibility that the training will emphasize reducing risks to McGill. Professor White responded that the training does include some discussion of legal issues, but that this is not its primary focus; it covers what is involved in being an assessor and it includes an examination of case studies from which identifying information has been deleted. It is proper training by an experienced person, and it has no ulterior motives.

Senate approved the 448th Report of the Academic Policy Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/7._d13-05_-_448th_apc_report_with_appendix_0.pdf), which was presented by Provost Masi. Senate also approved a recommendation to amend the University Statutes (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/8._d13-06_amendment_to_the_university_statutes_memo_with_appendix_0.pdf). This amendment replaces the current text of Article 13.1 (which lists all the degrees offered by McGill) with a more general text stating that the official list of degrees will be maintained by the Secretary-General. This will enable future degree changes to be enacted by Senate without going through the lengthy process required for amending the Statutes.

Senate next approved the report of the Nominating Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/9_d13-07_nominating_report_1.pdf). This included the nomination of Christopher Lyons to the Senate Committee on Libraries, of Joseph Hafner as an alternate member of the University Tenure Committee for Recruitment, and of Eamon Duffy as a Senate representative to the Advisory Committee for the Selection of the Dean of the Desautels Faculty of Management.

As its final order of business, Senate moved into closed session to consider the Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee.

The next Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2013. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,
Your librarian Senate reps,
Daniel Boyer
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Marc Richard