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Subject: Senate Meeting Report, 2014-01-22
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Senate Meeting Report, 2014-01-22

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on Wednesday, January 22, 2014.

Senate began by adopting a motion to continue to livestream Senate meetings during the time it will take for the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Livestreaming of Senate Meetings to complete its work.

Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/final_december_4_2013_senate_minutes.pdf), the report of the Steering Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/2_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_0.pdf) and the agenda (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/1_agenda_senate_-_january_22_2014.pdf). Further to the adoption of the minutes, Senator Saroyan drew attention to the sparse description they give of comments and discussion by Senators in general, in contrast with inserts giving verbatim transcriptions of statements from Administration members. She requested that henceforth more details be incorporated to better reflect input from Senators.

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Fortier noted that the Principal's Report for 2012-2013 is available for download from the Principal's website. The report can be obtained in both English and French versions. Members of the Administration will be presenting in person (at a date which is not yet known) the brief which McGill has already submitted in writing to the Commission which is holding hearings on Bill 60, the Quebec Values Charter. The brief can be viewed in full at: https://www.mcgill.ca/communications/sites/mcgill.ca.communications/files/bill_60_submission_english.pdf.

On the subject of financing, the Principal indicated that Minister Duchesne has confirmed that the Quebec government will be reinvesting \$1.8B in universities by 2019; this amount uses as its reference point the current level of university funding, not the level at which it was situated prior to the government-imposed cuts of the recent past. For McGill, this will work out to an additional \$20.3M for 2014-2015. Universities must reach agreements with the Minister to access these funds; a first meeting has been held between the Administration and Minister Duchesne, and the Principal is confident that an agreement will be reached. At the federal level, the government announced a new international education strategy last week. McGill will be participating in an upcoming consultation for the development of a new federal strategy on science, technology and innovation.

Principal Fortier reported that the recent Centraide campaign raised \$380,000, just short of its \$400,000 target. McGill has launched its first MOOC, presented by Professors David Harpp, Joe Schwarcz and Ariel Fenster; it has attracted 21,000 students from 150 countries.

Under the agenda point for formal questions, Senator Stewart-Kanigan posed a question regarding support of Indigenous Access McGill, with the response being provided by Deputy Provost Dyens and Dean Costopoulos (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/4_questionregardingupportofindigenoussaccessmcgill-1.pdf).

Senate adopted a series of amendments, which were presented by Associate Provost White, to sections 7 and 8 of the Regulations Relating to the Employment of Tenure Track and Tenured Academic Staff and to the corresponding parts (sections 3, 4 and 7) of the Regulations Relating to the Employment of Librarian Staff (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/5_d13-38_proposed_changes_to_regulations_employment_tenure_track_and_tenured_academic_staff_regs_employment_librarian_staff_with_appendices.pdf). The changes are summarized in the cover memo, with Appendix A providing the details for the faculty Regulations and Appendix B providing a table of the corresponding changes in the librarian Regulations.

Two modifications to the document occurred on the floor of Senate. Professor White withdrew from the package of amendments the proposed change to article 7.32.4 (and to the corresponding article in the librarian Regulations), saying that the wording requires additional consideration. Professor White also accepted as a friendly amendment a proposal from Senator Zorychta to delete the words "upon request by the candidate" from the proposed revision to article 7.17.8 (and from the corresponding article in the librarian Regulations) so that the article will read "If the DTC or the UTC is tending to a negative recommendation, the Secretary-General shall provide the candidate with a copy of the external evaluations with nominative information removed, as prescribed by applicable legislation."

Some of the Regulation changes adopted by Senate affect dates which are related to the tenure process: the dates for establishing the composition of the DTC/LTC and of the UTC, and the dates which lead to the establishment of the list of external evaluators. Other changes pertain to the Secretary-General being notified on a routine basis when the DTC/LTC or the UTC or the Principal are tending towards a negative in a tenure case, and to a new requirement for the Principal to provide reasons in the advent of a negative tenure decision, i.e. without the candidate having to request them. The sections of the Regulations which pertain to promotion to the rank of (Full) Professor / (Full) Librarian were also amended to increase from 6 to 8 the number of external authorities to be listed, and to increase from 3 to 4 the number of letters to be obtained from these evaluators. Finally, a minor amendment was made to a footnote in the Teaching Portfolio section of the Regulations.

Regarding the changes made to the sections dealing with external authorities, Senator Bell drew attention to the fact that it can be very difficult in certain fields to identify individuals with whom a candidate has not co-published any articles, with the possible exception of competitors who are unlikely to write a favourable evaluation of the candidate's dossier. He asked if the conflict of interest guidelines could be reviewed to take this factor into account. Associate Provost White responded that the issues raised by Senator Bell could be revisited, adding that the conflict of interest guidelines are in fact due to come up for review.

Senate approved the 452nd Report of the Academic Policy Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/6_d13-39_452nd_apc_report_and_appendices.pdf) and received for information the report of the Nominating Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/7_d13-40_report_of_the_nominating_committee2.pdf), both of which were presented by Provost Masi. The latter report describes a revised process which was adopted by the Nominating Committee for appointing Senate representatives to a particular UTC from a single pool of Senate representatives once the pool is approved by Senate.

Deputy Provost Dyens next presented the annual report on Student Life and Learning (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/8_d13-41_annual_report_student_life_and_learning_with_appendix.pdf). Senator Larson asked when a more formalized Statement of Values on Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Assembly can be expected. Deputy Provost Dyens responded that there have already been consultations with students

about this document, which is at the draft stage, and that it is hoped that the Statement will be ready by the end of the academic year.

Senate received for information the annual Enrolment Report (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/9_d13-42_enrolment_report_2013-2014_with_appendix.pdf), which was presented by University Registrar Massey, and the Annual Report of the Ombudsperson for Students (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/10_d13-43_ombudsman_for_students_annual_report_2012-13_with_appendices.pdf), which was presented by Professor Spencer Boudreau.

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, February 19, 2014. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

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