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**Subject:** Senate Meeting Report, 2014-04-23  
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## Senate Meeting Report, 2014-04-23

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on Wednesday, April 23, 2014.

The meeting began with Senate observing a moment of silence for the recent tragedy at University of Calgary.

Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/final\\_senate\\_minutes\\_march\\_19\\_2014.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/final_senate_minutes_march_19_2014.pdf)), the report of the Steering Committee ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/report\\_of\\_the\\_senate\\_steering\\_committee\\_17.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_17.pdf)) and the agenda ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/agenda\\_-\\_april\\_23\\_2014\\_1.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/agenda_-_april_23_2014_1.pdf)).

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Fortier commented on the recent provincial election by saying that the change of government has created uncertainty in a number of areas affecting McGill. We do not know whether the *Chantiers* on higher education organized by the previous government will continue their activities, or if the new government will make use of the reports which came out of the *Chantiers* which have already completed their work. The new government will have to produce a budget, something which is expected to occur in June. The new cabinet was announced as Senate was meeting: Yves Bolduc will serve as Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports and Minister of Higher Education, Research and Science, whereas under the previous government there were separate ministers for Education and Higher Education. The Principal also reported on the AUCC meeting which took place earlier this month in Winnipeg, at which aboriginal education, university-college partnerships and national and international student mobility were important topics of discussion.

Under the agenda point for formal questions, a question on Research Ethics and Partnerships Policy development was posed by Senators Stewart-Kanigan and Butler and was answered by V.-P. Goldstein ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/question\\_re\\_research\\_ethics\\_and\\_partnerships\\_policy\\_development\\_\\_response.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/question_re_research_ethics_and_partnerships_policy_development__response.pdf)). In a follow-up question pertaining to the revised policy that may emerge from the review process, Senator Butler asked about the projects to which the revised policy would apply. V.-P. Goldstein responded that this issue will need to be considered by the review working group, but that the policy would probably not be retroactive; project renewals, however, would probably be treated as new projects.

Provost Masi and V.-P. Di Grappa presented the latest staffing report ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-56\\_staffing\\_report\\_with\\_appendix.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-56_staffing_report_with_appendix.pdf)). The Provost noted that, as is shown in Table 7, there has been a gradual reduction in the number of tenure-track/tenured librarians over a five year period, and that his office and the Dean of Libraries are analyzing this decline.

Senator Saroyan drew attention to inequities in staffing (both academic and non-academic) across faculties. Provost Masi responded that not all inequalities are inequities, since different faculties have different staffing requirements (for example, those which use laboratories in contrast with those which do not), and he also noted that the government's funding grid does not fund students in different faculties at a uniform level. Regarding the charts showing the distribution of academic staff and of administrative and support staff, Senator Saroyan asked which category incorporates academic staff who are seconded to administrative duties. Provost Masi responded that, when this situation occurs, the individual's salary is vacated from that person's faculty and he or she is not counted as part of the academic complement until the person returns to his or her unit.

Provost Masi gave an update on the budget for 2014-2015 ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-57\\_covering\\_memo\\_mcgill\\_budget\\_fy2015\\_0.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-57_covering_memo_mcgill_budget_fy2015_0.pdf)). In the period for discussion which followed, Senator Bernard noted that we are still reliant on the government for about 50% of our budget, and asked the Provost for his thoughts on possible new sources of revenue. Provost Masi noted that, although McGill remains a public sector university, there has been some movement away from public funding in the form of deregulated programs and self-financed programs; more movement in this direction may need to be contemplated. Senator Bernard also asked whether McGill could sell off some of its properties. V.-P. Di Grappa responded that the campus redevelopment plan which is being prepared may include the sale of some buildings, but he added that deferred maintenance is a huge problem which would not be solved by such sales.

Senator Lu asked whether McGill could try using a participatory budgeting process in connection with certain special projects. The Provost answered that some of the money distributed for special projects does in fact already involve decisions taken at the faculty level (for example, though votes by associate deans) rather than being decided exclusively by the central Administration. Senator Bouchard asked for information about the Royal Victoria Hospital redevelopment project which is being contemplated. Principal Fortier responded that this project is still at a preliminary conceptual stage, and that various conditions will need to be met in order for it to go ahead; once it is more tangible, it will be brought to Senate.

Senator Wolfson presented the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Enhancement of Senate Meetings ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-58\\_enhancement\\_of\\_senate\\_meetings\\_with\\_appendix.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-58_enhancement_of_senate_meetings_with_appendix.pdf)) and proposed the adoption of its recommendations. In the period for discussion of the report, Senator Richard agreed that Senate Orientation meetings should be refocused and said that these sessions should spend more time on the details of how Senate works and less time -- or even no time -- on general University background information of a non-governance nature (such as research at McGill and student life and learning). Regarding the recommendation to hold a pilot meeting of Senate in the Moot Court room in May, he asked whether the Moot Court room has a federated microphone system and whether it has adequate table space for laptops and documents. Senator Wolfson answered that she had not seen the room. Secretary-General Strople indicated that, as far as he knew, it did not have the same level of facilities as Leacock 232, and concurred that it would be a good idea to assess the May pilot meeting before committing to the long-term use of the Moot Court room. Senator Richard also asked for more details about the recommendation to have the Senate Steering Committee serve as a sounding board, since it was not clear from the proposal who would be sounding out whom about what topics.

Senator Wolfson responded that this still needs to be determined, but that the general feeling of the Ad Hoc Committee was that there needs to be more linkage between Steering and Senators.

Senator White commented that the proposal to review the composition and the terms of reference of the Steering Committee and of the Academic Policy Committee sounded drastic, and asked whether the adoption of the Ad Hoc Committee's report only meant that the suggested changes would be considered. Senator Wolfson confirmed that this would simply mean that a review would be conducted. Senator Mooney asked if the Committee had discussed the idea of Senate looking more closely at financial issues. Senator Wolfson responded that this had not been discussed, but that the idea could be looked at later. Prior to Senate voting on the report, Principal Fortier said that it was understood that the recommendations in the report would be explored and that some of them might not turn out to be feasible. The report was adopted.

Provost Masi presented the 455th report of the Academic Policy Committee ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-59\\_455th\\_report\\_of\\_apc\\_with\\_appendices\\_0.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-59_455th_report_of_apc_with_appendices_0.pdf)), which was adopted. Regarding the part of the revised Course Evaluation Policy which states that the results of course evaluations will be made available provided that two conditions are met (one of these being that the instructor has not objected to access), Senator Covo asked whether the agreement of all the instructors would be required in multiple-instructor courses. Dr. Winer confirmed that this would indeed be required on an all-or-nothing basis.

The next agenda item was the report of the Senate Nominating Committee ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-60\\_senate\\_nominating\\_report.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-60_senate_nominating_report.pdf)). Principal Fortier presented for adoption the first section of the report, which proposed the appointment of four representatives of Senate (plus two alternate representatives) to the Advisory Committee for the Selection of the Provost. Senator Bouchard indicated he had heard that this Committee has apparently already met, and asked the Principal whether this was in fact the case. Principal Fortier responded that the members of the Committee had indeed held an orientation meeting last week, on the understanding that some of their appointments still needed to be approved; this was done to meet the required timeline, given that there are fewer students on campus during the summer. Senator Richard remarked that the selection of a Provost is an important process whose timeline should not come as a surprise, and asked why these nominations were therefore not brought to Senate a month ago. The Principal responded that it was a matter of scheduling, but added that she took the point and that it would have been better to do it earlier. Senator Bouchard moved that this section of the Nominating report be tabled until the end of the meeting and that it be considered in closed session; his motion was voted on and approved.

Provost Masi presented the remainder of the Nominating report, which was approved. These nominations included the appointment of Sara Holder as a representative of Senate on the Advisory Committee for the Selection of the Dean of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and of Daniel Boyer as Alternate Chair of the University Tenure Committee for the Libraries.

The next agenda item was a presentation by V.-P. Di Grappa and Mr. Martin Krayer von Krauss (Manager, Office of Sustainability) on the Vision 2020 Sustainability Strategy ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-61\\_vision\\_2020\\_with\\_appendices.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-61_vision_2020_with_appendices.pdf)). This was followed by a progress report from V.-P. Goldstein on the Quartier de l'Innovation ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-62\\_qi\\_2013\\_progress\\_report\\_\\_with\\_appendices.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-62_qi_2013_progress_report__with_appendices.pdf)), and by Provost Masi's presentation of the report of the Joint Senate Steering and Board Executive Committees meeting ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-63\\_joint\\_exec-steering\\_report.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-63_joint_exec-steering_report.pdf)).

As the final item of business, the meeting moved into closed session and Provost Masi recused himself in order for Senate to complete its discussion of the tabled nominations to the Advisory Committee for the Selection of the Provost.

The last Senate meeting of the 2013-2014 academic year will be held on Wednesday, May 14, 2014. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

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