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**Subject:** Senate Meeting Report, 2014-05-14  
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## Senate Meeting Report, 2014-05-14

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on Wednesday, May 14, 2014.

The meeting took place in the Faculty of Law's Moot Court, to assess the suitability of the room compared with Leacock 232. It opened with Secretary-General Strople presenting a recommendation from the Steering Committee to have Dean Jutras chair the meeting in Principal Fortier's absence. The recommendation was approved. Dean Jutras conveyed the Principal's regrets, saying that she and other U15 presidents had been called to Ottawa on short notice to meet with the Prime Minister.

Senator Cuello presented a memorial tribute for Professor Kathleen Glass. Senate adopted the minutes of the last meeting ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/final\\_senate\\_minutes\\_april\\_23\\_2014\\_with\\_appendix.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/final_senate_minutes_april_23_2014_with_appendix.pdf)), the report of the Steering Committee ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/2.\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_senate\\_steering\\_committee\\_1.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/2._report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_1.pdf)) and the agenda ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/1.\\_senate\\_agenda\\_-\\_may\\_14\\_2014.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/1._senate_agenda_-_may_14_2014.pdf)). As a point of business arising, Dean Jutras noted that data on gender bias in grading had been appended to the minutes of the April meeting.

Dean Jutras noted various highlights from the list of kudos which had been distributed by the Principal ahead of the meeting. Senator Mooney asked for information on a recent newspaper article which stated that McGill had refused to sign a *convention* with the Quebec government. Provost Masi addressed this issue, saying that McGill had not been unique in refusing to do so. Two *conventions* had been proposed by the government to Quebec's universities: a *convention spécifique*, which McGill would have been willing to sign, and a *convention générale*, whose preamble was unacceptable and to which all of Quebec's rectors and principals objected. The government did not permit the *convention spécifique* to be signed on its own. Furthermore, no money was to be gained by signing these documents in view of the fact that the PQ's spring budget was not adopted before the election produced a change in government.

There being no formal written questions, the next agenda item was a presentation by Vice-Principal Di Grappa on McGill's potential acquisition of the Royal Victoria Hospital site ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-64\\_rvh\\_memo\\_with\\_appendix.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-64_rvh_memo_with_appendix.pdf)). Senate approved the appointment of assessors under the Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-65\\_approval\\_of\\_assessors\\_memo.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-65_approval_of_assessors_memo.pdf)). Provost Masi then gave Senate a verbal update on the renewal of McGill's license agreement with Copibec. A 30% discount was negotiated for the new agreement, which goes into effect on June 1 and which runs until 2017; the new price is \$15 per full-time student. The Provost noted that all the other universities in Quebec had signed with Copibec, but that in the rest of Canada the need for such agreements is a matter which is now before the courts owing to various changes in copyright legislation. McGill is setting up its own office of copyright compliance, and is positioning itself to manage this complex issue internally in the future, but it is not yet ready to start doing so.

Provost Masi presented for approval the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Composition of Senate ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-66\\_ad\\_hoc\\_committee\\_to\\_review\\_the\\_composition\\_of\\_senate\\_report.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-66_ad_hoc_committee_to_review_the_composition_of_senate_report.pdf)). There was lengthy debate of this item, with Provost Masi providing answers to a number of questions that were raised.

On the proposal to strike out the words "non-unionized" from the part of the Statutes which (under the current phrasing) allocates Senate seats to "six members of the non-unionized administrative and support staff," Senator Shaughnessy asked why this element is being deleted. The Provost responded that there is no reason for this exclusion to be in place. Senator Richard noted that the report appears to say three different things about this issue: the proposed Statute amendments remove the restriction on unionized staff, the main body of the report discusses the change in hypothetical terms under certain provisos, and the list of numbered recommendations

makes no mention of the subject. Provost Masi answered that the document reflects the evolution of the Ad Hoc Committee's consultations and that the Committee had tried to edit out such discrepancies; the proposed Statute amendments are the text on which Senate is being asked to vote.

Senator Lu expressed concern that the proposed faculty-at-large seats might result in smaller faculties being marginalized by larger ones in that group of seats. Provost Masi responded that part of the rationale for this proposal seats was the growth of interdisciplinary programs, adding that these seats should be regarded as being for academics from anywhere rather than for academic from specific faculties. Senator Saroyan asked whether the overall allocation of Senate seats for elected academic members was being based on proportionality. The Provost responded that the allocations were not being based strictly on a formula because a defined numeric ratio would explode the size of Senate.

Senator Bell asked whether the phrase "If a Senator does not attend three consecutive meetings of Senate, or five meetings in a governance year, s/he shall ipso facto forfeit his/her seat" applied only to elected members. Provost Masi answered that it did. Senator Bell also proposed that the phrase be tempered with a a qualifier such as "without sufficient reason". The Provost accepted this suggestion as a friendly amendment. Associate Provost White proposed the addition of some clarifying language relating to the groups mentioned in recommendations 5 and 6; this was likewise accepted as a friendly amendment.

Regarding the Ad Hoc Committee's view that "should unionized members of the administrative and support staff run for Senate positions, the election procedures should stipulate that there be no involvement by unions in the process, including no endorsement of candidates by a union," Senator Cooke asked how this proviso would be controlled. The Provost answered that this element has not yet been worked out, and added that unionized status should not be an exclusionary principle for participation in Senate. Senator Richard asked if librarians would be eligible to vote and to run for the faculty-at-large seats. The Provost answered that they would indeed be eligible. In response to comments from Senators Butler and Ismail, Provost Masi indicated that the mechanisms and election procedures for filling the faculty-at-large seats will need to be looked at by the Senate Nominating Committee.

The Provost reminded Senators that the changes which they were being asked to approve were the proposed amendments to the Statutes which were shown as underlined text, highlights and strike-outs. Dean Jutras noted that Senate was also approving the report as a whole, as well as the friendly amendments which had been made. The document was adopted. Secretary-General Strople noted that amendments to the Statutes require a notice of motion; today's proceedings will serve as that notice of motion, and the amendments will be presented to Senate in September for the required vote.

Provost Masi presented for adoption the 456th Report of the Academic Policy Committee ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-67\\_apc-\\_456th\\_report\\_to\\_senate\\_with\\_appendices.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-67_apc-_456th_report_to_senate_with_appendices.pdf)). The recommendations on graduate student supervision generated considerable discussion. In reference to the recommendations which are stated as five bullet points in the report, Provost Masi specified that they were being brought to Senate for endorsement rather than for approval, and that Senate was being asked to endorse the principles expressed by these bullet points rather than their exact wording. This is being done to give APC something to work with during the summer, so that APC can know if it is on the right track.

Senators Zorychta and Lu argued in favour of changing "supervisory committee" to "advisory committee," and of amending the phrase "supervision is an expected part of the academic duty of teaching for professors at McGill" in order to change "expected" to "recognized." Dean Kreiswirth spoke against the proposal to modify the name of the committee, saying that a switch to "advisory committee" would simply bring the supervisory committee back to its former designation. Senator Lu agreed that this was a good reason to retain the current name. Senator Richard supported the proposal to change "expected" to "recognized," saying that the current phrasing implies that supervision -- which is a common practice, but which is not a required academic duty under the faculty Regulations in the same way that teaching is -- could be treated as an obligation. Senator Ismail concurred. Provost Masi accepted this change as a friendly amendment, and the principles were endorsed.

Senate approved the other elements of the APC report, including the recommendation to relocate the School of Information Studies from the Faculty of Education to the Faculty of Arts, and to change its designation accordingly from "School of Information Studies, Faculty of Education" to "School of Information Studies, Faculty of Arts." Senator Saroyan asked whether this change will affect the faculty complement of the Faculty

of Education. Provost Masi responded that the change will be resource-neutral and harmless for the units involved. Senator Saroyan disagreed that the change was neutral.

Senate approved the report of the Senate Nominating Committee ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-68\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_nominating\\_committee.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-68_report_of_the_nominating_committee.pdf)). The report established three Advisory Committees: one for the Possible Reappointment of the Trenholme Dean of Libraries, one for the Selection of the Dean of Science, and one for the Selection of the Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. The recommendations adopted also included one professorial and four student appointments to the Senate Committee on Libraries, as well as the appointment of Martin Morris to the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee, and of Daniel Boyer as a Legal Assessor on the Appeal Committee for Student Discipline and Grievances.

As the final items of business, Senate approved the Academic Calendar of Dates for 2017-2018 ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-69\\_calendar\\_of\\_dates\\_2017-18\\_with\\_appendix\\_0.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-69_calendar_of_dates_2017-18_with_appendix_0.pdf)), received a verbal interim report from Dean Costopoulos on the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Charter of Students' Rights, and received for information the Report from the Board of Governors to Senate (not yet posted), the Annual Report on the Policy on Safe Disclosure ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-71\\_safe\\_disclosure\\_policy\\_memo\\_with\\_appendix.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-71_safe_disclosure_policy_memo_with_appendix.pdf)) and the Senate Calendar of Dates for 2014-2015 ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-72\\_2014-2015\\_senate\\_meeting\\_dates.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/sites/mcgill.ca.senate/files/d13-72_2014-2015_senate_meeting_dates.pdf)).

The next Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 17, 2014. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

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