

Senate Meeting Report, 2014-11-19

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on Wednesday, November 19, 2014.

The meeting opened with memorial tributes being presented by Dean Jutras for Professor Patrick Glenn and by Dean Eidelman for Professor Emeritus Yves Clermont. Principal Fortier presented regrets from Provost Masi, who could not attend today's meeting.

Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/final\\_senate\\_minutes\\_october\\_22\\_2014.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/final_senate_minutes_october_22_2014.pdf)), the report of the Steering Committee ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/report\\_of\\_the\\_senate\\_steering\\_committee\\_19.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_19.pdf)) and the agenda ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/agenda\\_-\\_senate\\_-\\_november\\_19\\_2014.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/agenda_-_senate_-_november_19_2014.pdf)). Further to the adoption of the minutes, Senator Saroyan asked the Secretary-General what guidelines or procedures are used by the Secretariat to decide which comments or questions from Senators are included from the minutes and which ones are excluded. Secretary-General Strople answered that there are no precise guidelines; the Secretariat attempts to capture the gist of the discussions without providing a verbatim transcript. This is mostly a matter of judgment. The Secretary-General added that the minutes are open to questioning or revision by members of Senate.

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Fortier provided an update on the second round of university budget cuts for this year which the Quebec government had previously announced in general terms. Last week, the government provided the actual figures for these cuts: they will amount to \$31.6M for the system as a whole, with McGill's share amounting to \$4.8M. Provost Masi and the budget team are looking in great detail at our situation in light of this information. The Principal noted that additional information can be found in her response to the second of today's three formal written questions ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question\\_regarding\\_budget\\_reductions\\_announced\\_at\\_open\\_forum\\_on\\_mcgills\\_financial\\_situation\\_with\\_response.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question_regarding_budget_reductions_announced_at_open_forum_on_mcgills_financial_situation_with_response.pdf)).

Principal Fortier reported that in the latest university ranking to be released, the one from Macleans, McGill was ranked in first place in the medical/doctoral category. She noted that these rankings are not a precise science and that they include a large error bar.

The Principal concluded her remarks by indicating that an email will soon be going out to the McGill community on the difficult issues of sexual harassment and sexual assault, on which there has been a great deal of media attention in the past few weeks. Principal Fortier stressed the importance of having a safe and respectful environment.

Under the agenda item for formal questions, Senators Pinto, Murray and Wang posed a question regarding graduate student transition to the new Glen site in February 2015, for which Dean Eidelman provided a response ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate\\_question\\_regarding\\_graduate\\_student\\_transition\\_to\\_the\\_new\\_glen\\_site\\_in\\_february\\_2015\\_with\\_response.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_question_regarding_graduate_student_transition_to_the_new_glen_site_in_february_2015_with_response.pdf)).

The next question, from Senators Greenspon and Stewart-Kanigan, concerned the budget reductions announced at the Open Forum on McGill's Financial Situation. A written response was provided ahead of the meeting by Provost Masi ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question\\_regarding\\_budget\\_reductions\\_announced\\_at\\_open\\_forum\\_on\\_mcgills\\_financial\\_situation\\_with\\_response.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question_regarding_budget_reductions_announced_at_open_forum_on_mcgills_financial_situation_with_response.pdf)). On the subject of Library hours, Senator Kucij

read the following supplementary statement: "The Library has been in close and constant communication with students about the provision of extended hours beyond the standard opening hours. Thanks to the generosity of our undergraduate students through the SSMU Library Improvement Fund (with matching funds from University Advancement), SSMU has agreed to fund extended study hours throughout the academic year. We know that our students are most appreciative, as is the Library." After a follow-up question from a student Senator on potential cuts to Library resources, Secretary-General Strople noted that Dean Cook could not attend today's meeting and asked that Senate permit Ms. Diane Koen, Senior Director, Planning & Resources, to provide a response. Ms. Koen indicated that the Library is working to protect the critical collection budget this year.

The final written question, from Senators Stewart-Kanigan, Ibrahim and Greenspon, concerned McGill's approach to community engagement; the response was provided by Principal Fortier ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question\\_regarding\\_mcgills\\_approach\\_to\\_community\\_engagement\\_with\\_response\\_1.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question_regarding_mcgills_approach_to_community_engagement_with_response_1.pdf)).

Senator Ibrahim drew attention to the fact that two of the written responses from the Administration to the formal questions submitted by student Senators had been provided late, and noted that this is not the first time that this has happened. Such late responses make it difficult for student Senators to consult their constituents prior to Senate. He asked that the Administration show the same respect in providing written responses on time as the students do in submitting their written questions on time. The Principal took due note of this.

The next agenda item was an open discussion on "Non-Traditional/Out-of-the-Classroom Learning: Integrating Research Opportunities in Undergraduate Studies" ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d14-16\\_-\\_open\\_discussion\\_0.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d14-16_-_open_discussion_0.pdf)). Principal Fortier turned the Chair over to Secretary-General Strople for this item.

The next order of business was the presentation by Associate Provost White of the 459th report of the Academic Policy Committee ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d14-17\\_-\\_459th\\_report\\_of\\_apc\\_to\\_senate\\_with\\_appendix.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d14-17_-_459th_report_of_apc_to_senate_with_appendix.pdf)). The report contained new Guidelines on Definitions of Academic Entities, which were proposed by the APC Workgroup on Nomenclature of Academic Units. Senate approved these guidelines, after integrating friendly amendments put forward by Dean Madramootoo and Senator Galaty. The guidelines will be used by APC and Senate when the creation of new academic entities is contemplated and when existing ones are changed.

Associate Provost White next presented two sets of proposed regulation revisions: one set for the Regulations on Sabbatic Leaves for Tenured and Tenure-Track Academic Staff, and one set for the Regulations on Leaves of Absence for Tenured and Tenure-Track Academic Staff ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d14-18\\_-\\_proposed\\_revisions\\_to\\_leave\\_regs\\_with\\_appendices\\_0.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d14-18_-_proposed_revisions_to_leave_regs_with_appendices_0.pdf)). Professor White noted that she had received ahead of the meeting some suggested changes from Senator Richard, which she had accepted as friendly amendments. The first change, to section 4.3.1, replaces "Chair" with "Chair, dean of a faculty without departments or the Dean or Director of Libraries, as appropriate". The second change, to sections 2.1 and 4.2.2, adds "where applicable" after each mention of a report from an earlier sabbatical leave.

Senator Richard noted that, under the proposed revisions to the sabbatic leave regulations, the University would no longer be required to provide at least \$100,000 per year to help the Library and small faculties fund sabbatic leave replacements. He asked what measures are in place, or will be put in place, to ensure that the deletion of this requirement does not translate into fewer sabbatic leaves being approved. Associate Provost White responded that Deans can and do make requests to the Provost for

funding when it is difficult for them to manage a sabbatic leave without a replacement; this is already the case, and it will not change. Senate approved the two sets of revisions. Senator Saroyan expressed her appreciation to Professor White for her collegial consultations with MAUT when the revisions were at the discussion stage.

As the next item of business, Dean Costopoulos presented the annual report of the Committee on Student Discipline ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d14-19\\_-\\_csd\\_report\\_with\\_appendices\\_1.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d14-19_-_csd_report_with_appendices_1.pdf)). He noted that an appendix on trends has been provided, but added that this document is not yet finalized and that feedback will be appreciated as it undergoes final revision.

Deputy-Provost Dyens presented the annual report of the Committee on Enrolment and Student Affairs ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d14-20\\_-\\_cesa\\_annual\\_report\\_to\\_senate\\_2013-2014\\_0.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d14-20_-_cesa_annual_report_to_senate_2013-2014_0.pdf)), and V.-P. Goldstein presented the report of the Joint Board-Senate Meeting ([https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d14-21\\_joint\\_board-senate\\_report\\_with\\_appendices.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/d14-21_joint_board-senate_report_with_appendices.pdf)). V.-P. Goldstein indicated that the JBS report is a summary of the round table discussions that were held; she will return to Senate in January with a synthesis of the discussions and an action plan.

As the final agenda item, Senate moved into confidential session to discuss the report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee.

The next Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 3, 2014. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,  
Your librarian Senate reps,

Maya Kucij  
Marc Richard  
Natalie Waters