

Senate Meeting Report, 2016-05-11

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on Wednesday, May 11, 2016.

Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting

(http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_minutes_april_20_2016.pdf), the report of the Steering Committee

(http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/2_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_11.pdf) and the agenda (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/1_agenda_-_senate_may_11_2016_0.pdf). As points of business arising from the previous minutes, Deputy-Provost Dyens provided verbally a further response to the question regarding course outlines, and Secretary-General Strople provided a further response to the question regarding the resolution of grievances under the Committee of Student Grievances (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/4_item_3.2_further_response_grievances_revised.pdf)

In her comments from the Chair, Principal Fortier provided an update on the \$2B in funding which the federal government has announced for strategic infrastructure investments in the post-secondary education sector. The funding comes with a number of constraints, notably the requirement that projects receiving this funding must be shovel-ready, must be completed by April 2018, and must receive funds from elsewhere because the federal government will only contribute up to 50% of the funding. In Quebec, moreover, project proposals must be reviewed by the provincial government before being sent to Ottawa. In early May, McGill and its affiliated hospitals submitted to Ottawa 13 potential projects adding up to \$100M in federal funding; many of these projects relate to sustainability.

Principal Fortier announced that her website has been updated to show the state of progress on the Principal's Priorities (<https://www.mcgill.ca/principal/five-priorities>); contributions in terms of feedback and advice are welcome. In addition, Principal Fortier stated that three open forums on sustainability would take place in the fall, two on the downtown campus and one at the Macdonald campus. She also reminded Senators that sustainability would be the theme of the Joint Board-Senate Meeting which is scheduled for November 2016.

The Principal noted that advisory committees have been set up for the positions of Vice-Principal (Administration and Finance) and of Vice-Principal (Research and International Relations); the latter position, as is indicated by item D15-61 of today's agenda, is to be renamed Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation). Principal Fortier also thanked the Senators whose terms were ending this year, and recognized Secretary-General Stephen Strople for his exemplary devotion to the stewardship of good governance at McGill.

In the follow-up discussion to the Principal's remarks, Senator Saroyan asked how and when members of the University community will be able to provide input either in person or in writing to the advisory committees which have been set up. The Principal responded that these details are being worked out and that the list of committee meetings will be posted shortly.

Under the agenda point for formal questions, Senators Brunot, Ibrahim, and Kpeglo-Hennessy posed a question on application of the preferred name and non-binary gender disclosure policies, for which a response was provided by Deputy-Provost Dyens and by University Registrar Massey (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question_and_response_re_preferred_name_and_non-binary_gender_disclosure_policies.pdf). A question was also posed by Senators Rourke and Kpeglo-Hennessy regarding overhead charges applied to student services, for which an answer was provided by

Provost Manfredi

(http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question_and_response_re_overhead_charges.pdf).

Senate approved the 473rd Report of the Academic Policy Committee

(http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/6_d15-57_473rd_apc_report_and_appendices.pdf), which was presented by Provost Manfredi. This included the approval of a set of Guidelines for Developing a Research Portfolio, which will form Appendix B to the *Regulations Relating to the Employment of Tenure Track and Tenured Academic Staff*. Regarding this item, Senator Richard asked whether there are any plans to develop a similar appendix to the *Regulations Relating to the Employment of Librarian Staff* and, if so, whether the MAUT Librarians' Section will be included in the consultation process. Associate Provost Campbell responded that a research portfolio guideline appendix for the librarian regulations might be developed, perhaps in the next year or two; she added that if such an appendix were developed, it would be appropriate for librarians not just to be consulted on the matter but also to take a leading role in the project.

Senate approved the report of the Senate Nominating Committee

(http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/7_d15-58_nominating_report_revised.pdf), which was presented by Provost Manfredi. This included the appointments of Professors Peter Sabor and Bastien Castagner and of three student representatives to the Senate Committee on Libraries, and the appointment of Associate Dean Jenn Riley as alternate chair for the University Tenure Committee for the Libraries, as per article 3.24.1 of the *Regulations Relating to the Employment of Librarian Staff*.

Senate next approved the Calendar of Academic Dates for 2018-19 and 2019-20

(http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/8_d15-59_academic_dates.pdf), which was presented by Deputy-Provost Dyens and by University Registrar Massey, and the appointment of an assessor under the Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/9_d15-60_harassment_assessors.pdf), which was presented by Associate Provost Campbell.

Principal Fortier presented a proposal to revise various regulations and policies to replace the position title "Vice-Principal (Research and International Relations)" with "Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation)" and to replace the unit name "Research and International Relations" with "Research and Innovation" (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10_d15-61_name_changes_vp_rir_0.pdf). Senator Hastings asked what effects the proposed amendments would have on the number of senior administrative posts. The Principal responded that there would be no change, but that a currently unfilled Associate Provost position might be filled as a result; if so, this would be done through a part-time academic secondment. Senator Robaire asked about the difference between research and innovation. Principal Fortier quoted a definition of innovation given by the Council of Canadian Academies; Senator Robaire asked that this definition be included in the minutes of the meeting, and Principal Fortier agreed to the request.

The next agenda items, presented for information by Deputy-Provost Dyens, were the results of the Survey on Diversity and Discrimination (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/11_d15-62_understanding_diversity_and_discrimination.pdf) and a verbal progress report on McGill's Health and Wellness Strategy. A verbal progress report was also provided by Associate Dean of Students Zabowski on the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Charter of Students' Rights; it is hoped that a revised Charter of Students' Rights will be ready for Senate's consideration by the end of 2016.

Mr. Ram Panda presented the Report from the Board of Governors to Senate

(http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/13_d15-64_report_bog_to_senate_may_2016.pdf). The report noted that the Board had approved the Statement of Academic Freedom recently recommended by Senate;

the Statement is now displayed on the McGill website (<http://www.mcgill.ca/secretariat/statement-academic-freedom>). Secretary-General Strople presented the Annual Report on the Policy on Safe Disclosure (“Whistleblowing”) (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/12_d15-63_annual_report_policy_on_safe_disclosure.pdf) and a verbal report on the Senate Calendar of Dates for 2016-2017.

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, September 21, 2016. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,
Your librarian Senate reps,

Genevieve Gore
Marc Richard
Natalie Waters