

Senate Meeting Report, 2016-09-21

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on Wednesday, September 21, 2016.

Principal Fortier opened the meeting by welcoming new and returning Senators, as well as Secretary-General Edyta Rogowska and Ms Caroline Simard, Associate Director of the University Secretariat, who are both attending their first Senate meeting in these capacities. The meeting was held in the auditorium of the Redpath Museum due to concerns that were raised over the noise generated by the construction taking place near the Leacock Building.

Senator Roulet presented a memorial tribute for Professor Jan Lundgren. Senate then adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_minutes_may_11_2016_-_final.pdf), the report of the Steering Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/2_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_12.pdf) and the agenda (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/1_agenda_-_senate_-_september_21_2016.pdf).

In her remarks from the Chair, Principal Fortier reported that a 2.7% increase in enrollment is being projected for this year, this figure being the total for both undergraduate and graduate students in all degree-seeking programs. The final figure should be known in October. This year's university rankings have started to be released. In the QS survey, McGill is down by three or four positions, but still holds the top position in Canada; in the Shanghai ranking, McGill is up by one; in the Nature index, McGill is first in Canada and thirty-seventh globally. The Times Higher Education Supplement and Macleans rankings are forthcoming. The Principal noted that these surveys are unscientific, and use different criteria. In view of major investments being made in higher education by other countries, universities in Canada and the U.S. in general are falling behind (or are being overtaken by) overseas institutions.

The Principal thanked the McGill community for the many proposals which were submitted for the potential use of the Royal Victoria Hospital site. The forty or so expressions of interest which were received fell into three general categories: health sciences, sustainability, and public policy in a broad sense. It was decided that the best fit for the RVH site would be to bring together the academic themes of sustainability and public policy, and the concepts for doing so are now being studied in detail. The feasibility study for developing the RVH site is still ongoing.

On the subject of government relations, the Principal reported that McGill is actively engaged in various consultations which are taking place both at the federal and provincial levels. At the federal level, they include a review of fundamental science, consultations on innovation, and pre-budget consultations; at the provincial level, they include the planned creation of a Conseil des universités.

The Principal closed her remarks by referring to the recently-announced initiative to develop a McGill Faculty of Medicine satellite medical campus in the Outaouais region, where McGill has had a presence for over thirty years. Some 24 new students per year are expected, with 92% of the curriculum being given in French.

Under the agenda point for formal questions, Senators Erin Sobat and Sean Taylor posed a question regarding course assessment technologies (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question_re_course_assessment_technologies.pdf), for which an answer (not yet posted) was provided by Deputy-Provost Dyens. The second and final written question, posed by Senator Frankel, concerned educational activities and research on climate change, and was answered by Provost Manfredi and Vice-Principal Goldstein

http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_question_and_response_re_educational_activities_and_research_on_climate_change.pdf)

Senate received for information the annual report concerning the investigation of research misconduct (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/6._d16-01_research_misconduct_annual_report.pdf), which was presented by the outgoing Research Integrity Officer, Professor Abe Fuks. Vice-Principal Goldstein introduced the new R.I.O., Professor Christina Wolfson.

Senate adopted the 474th report of the Academic Policy Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/8._d16-02_474th_apc_report_full_version.pdf), which included the establishment of the McGill Centre for Islam and Science. Senate then adopted the report of the Nominating Committee (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/7._d16-03_nominating_report.pdf). This included the appointment of Mr Joseph Hafner as an alternate member of the University Tenure Committee for Recruitment, and of Mr Marc Richard as a member of the Committee on the Rights of Senate.

Senate approved the appointment of a new Assessor under the Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/9._d16-04_harassment_assessor.pdf), and received the annual report on this Policy (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/harassment_policy_annual_report_-_revised_as_of_19_sept.pdf), both items being presented by Associate Provost Campbell.

As the final items of business, Senate received the annual report of the Committee on Student Services (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/11._d16-06_css_annual_report.pdf), which was presented by Deputy-Provost Dyens, and the annual report of the Joint Board-Senate Committee on Equity (http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/12._d16-07_jbsce_.pdf), which was presented by Associate Provost Campbell.

The next Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 19, 2016. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,
Your librarian Senate reps,

Genevieve Gore
Marc Richard
Natalie Waters