

## Senate Meeting Report, 2016-10-19

Colleagues,

The following is a summary of the Senate meeting which took place on Wednesday, October 19, 2016.

Senate adopted the minutes of the last Senate meeting

([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate\\_minutes\\_sept.21.2016.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/senate_minutes_sept.21.2016.pdf)), the report of the Steering Committee

([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/2\\_report\\_of\\_the\\_senate\\_steering\\_committee\\_13.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/2_report_of_the_senate_steering_committee_13.pdf)) and the agenda ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/1\\_senate\\_agenda\\_oct.19.2016.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/1_senate_agenda_oct.19.2016.pdf)), with one change to the agenda: due to a scheduling conflict, the Report of the Honorary Degrees and Convocations Committee was dealt with as the first item of business, in closed session.

Upon the return to open session, Dean Eidelman presented a memorial tribute for Professor Emeritus Michael Whitehead. This was followed by the Comments from the Chair, during which Principal Fortier reported that she and other Quebec university heads had met recently with Quebec government members, including the Minister and Deputy Minister of Education. She noted that the funding formula for Quebec universities is due to be reviewed. On the federal scene, two major consultations are under way: one on the funding of research and one on innovation. On the municipal scene, Mayor Coderre is being hosted at McGill; topics for discussions will include the potential RVH site project and the preservation of McGill's heritage buildings.

Following the Principal's comments, Senator Richard noted that the review of the university funding formula is a subject which has been on and off the Quebec government's agenda for a number of years; he asked if the government has provided any specific timeline for the review. Principal Fortier responded in the negative, but indicated that the government has linked such a review to additional investments in the university sector. Senator Robaire asked for an update on the proposed creation by Quebec of a *Conseil des universités* and of a similar body for colleges. Principal Fortier responded that a consultation is currently under way, and that one of the questions being examined through this process concerns the mandate of these two proposed bodies; this mandate is currently unclear. The McGill Administration will be meeting in the next few weeks with former UQAM Rector Claude Corbo, who has been working on this file at the government's request.

Under the agenda point for formal questions, Senators Terry Hébert and Nate Quitoriano posed a question on engaging the broader McGill community on issues of importance, for which an answer was provided by V.-P. Weinstein

([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question\\_and\\_response\\_re\\_engaging\\_community.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question_and_response_re_engaging_community.pdf)). The second and final question, from Senators Snow and Sobat, concerned the relocation of the McGill

Bookstore; the answer was provided by V.-P. Yalovsky

([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question\\_and\\_response\\_re\\_relocation\\_of\\_the\\_mcgill\\_bookstore.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question_and_response_re_relocation_of_the_mcgill_bookstore.pdf)).

Provost Manfredi presented the 475th report of the Academic Policy Committee

([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/5\\_d16-08\\_475th\\_apc\\_report.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/5_d16-08_475th_apc_report.pdf)), which was

approved. Concerning one of the items in the report, the proposed creation of a School of Population & Global Health, Senator Galaty read the text of a prepared question regarding the extent to which the units involved had been consulted systematically and had given their approval. Dean Eidelman responded that the points raised by Senator Galaty had been discussed and that APC had been clear that the units in question would make their own decisions about their involvement in the School.

Provost Manfredi presented for information the annual report of the Academic Policy Committee ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/6.\\_d16-09\\_apc\\_annual\\_report\\_2015-16.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/6._d16-09_apc_annual_report_2015-16.pdf)). He then presented the report of the Senate Nominating Committee ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/7.\\_d16-10\\_nominating\\_report.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/7._d16-10_nominating_report.pdf)), which was approved; this included the nomination of Ms. Genevieve Gore as an alternate member of the Advisory Committee for the Selection of a Vice-Principal, Communications and External Relations.

Associate Provost Campbell presented a set of proposed revisions to the Regulations Relating to the Employment of Tenure Track and Tenured Academic Staff and a parallel set of proposed revisions to the Regulations Relating to the Employment of Librarian Staff ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/8.\\_d16-11\\_proposed\\_revisions\\_to\\_regulations.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/8._d16-11_proposed_revisions_to_regulations.pdf)). These revisions would permit, under exceptional circumstances, an academic appointment to be made with tenure at the time of hiring without going through the University Tenure Committee for Recruitment (UTCR) process which is currently used when a candidate is being recommended for tenure at the time of hiring. Senator Robaire raised a number of concerns about the proposal, starting with a question about whether such a measure is needed and whether McGill has ever lost a potential recruit over the current UTCR process. Associate Provost Campbell responded that the Administration does not have data, but does have anecdotal evidence that this is problematic; several deans and chairs feel that the UTCR process slows down hiring unnecessarily in some cases. She stressed that the proposed revisions create a measure which would be exceptional, and which would only be used after careful consideration rather than arbitrarily. In response to Senator Robaire's question about what is "an institution considered equivalent to McGill", Professor Campbell responded that the covering memo of the proposal includes an undertaking to report to Senate in three years (Fall 2019) on (a) the number of instances in which this exceptional new measure was deployed and (b) the institutions from which candidates for whom this mechanism was used were recruited, all while ensuring that no identifying information about these candidates is made public. The proposed revisions were adopted.

Provost Manfredi and Associate Provost Campbell next presented for discussion a set of documents ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/9.\\_d16-12\\_policy\\_against\\_sexual\\_violence.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/9._d16-12_policy_against_sexual_violence.pdf)) pertaining to the Draft Policy Against Sexual Violence which is being developed:

- The text of the Draft Policy Against Sexual Violence which was circulated to the McGill community on 12 September 2016
- A report on the campus consultation which was conducted regarding the draft policy
- The consultation report prepared by SSMU and PGSS on the student focus groups which were conducted regarding the draft policy
- Some potential revisions to the Draft Policy Against Sexual Violence which have been drafted in light of the consultation process

Provost Manfredi introduced these documents by reaffirming the Administration's commitment to have a Policy ready for approval by Senate before the end of 2016 and to allocate additional resources to dealing with sexual assault.

Senator Cleveland asked where ultimate responsibility would reside for the implementation of the Policy. Provost Manfredi and Associate Provost Campbell responded that this responsibility would reside with the Office of the Provost. Senator Frankel asked whether the Office of the Provost has consulted other universities about any similar policies they have in place. Provost Manfredi responded that policies against sexual violence are currently a subject of extreme activity in universities in both Canada and the

U.S., and he added that discussions of the subject have been taking place in such bodies as the AAU and the U15 Provost's Group. Dean Leckey commented on the importance of the discussion and consultation processes which are under way regarding the Draft Policy, and he encouraged input into these processes. In response to a question from Senator Galaty about the Draft Policy's definition of sexual violence, Associate Provost Campbell responded that the term is meant to include a range of experiences. She noted that the document is not about the investigation of events or the adjudication of cases for potential discipline; rather, it is about ensuring that individuals receive responsive support and are able to secure social and health services.

Principal Fortier thanked the members of Senate for their comments on the draft document. She reminded Senators that, as Provost Manfredi had already indicated, there is a commitment to bring to Senate a text for approval by the end of the calendar year.

Associate Provost Campbell presented the Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Systemic Discrimination ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10\\_d16-13\\_wgsd\\_tenure\\_track\\_survey\\_report.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/10_d16-13_wgsd_tenure_track_survey_report.pdf)). She commented that more mentoring at McGill might be desirable and that such mentoring might be particularly helpful to individuals affected by systemic discrimination. Mentoring programs exist in a number of faculties, but the development of a McGill-wide program would no doubt be challenging; Professor Campbell welcomes input on the subject. Senator Richard noted that the Library has recently developed a detailed mentoring program.

The final documents on the agenda, which were presented for information, were the University Advancement annual report ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/11\\_d16-14\\_ua\\_annual\\_report.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/11_d16-14_ua_annual_report.pdf)), which was presented by V.-P. Weinstein; the annual report from the Senate Committee on Physical Development ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/12\\_d16-15\\_scpd\\_annual\\_report\\_2015-16.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/12_d16-15_scpd_annual_report_2015-16.pdf)), which was presented by Associate V.-P. Couvrette; and the most recent report from the Board of Governors to Senate ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/13\\_d16-16\\_board\\_report\\_to\\_senate\\_october\\_2016.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/13_d16-16_board_report_to_senate_october_2016.pdf)), which was presented by Senator Panda; and the notice of the Joint Board-Senate Meeting which will take place on November 10, 2016 ([http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/14\\_d16-17\\_joint\\_board-senate\\_meeting\\_notice.pdf](http://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/14_d16-17_joint_board-senate_meeting_notice.pdf)), which was presented by Principal Fortier.

The next Senate meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 23, 2016. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.

Regards,  
Your librarian Senate reps,

Genevieve Gore  
Marc Richard  
Natalie Waters